

RAMBLES
THROUGH
IRELAND;

BY A
FRENCH EMIGRANT.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF
MONSIEUR DE LATOCNAYE,

BY
AN IRISHMAN.

VOL. I.

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TRANSLATOR's PREFACE.

OUR countryman Goldsmith somewhere says, that a man who travels through Europe on foot, forms a very different idea of things from him who is whirled through it in a post-chaise. In fact a person who wishes to study the character of a nation, must not confine his researches to courts and cities; in these places the rougher traits of character are softened, and the pure and genuine expression of the feelings is exchanged for a polished but insincere dialect. It is in the cottage of the peasant the lover of nature must seek for her; it is there the philanthropist, who wishes to alleviate the distresses of his fellow-creatures, must become acquainted with them; it is there the politician must learn to value the class of men who labour for the other orders of society, and repair the havock of luxury and war.

Such appear at least to have been the sentiments of our Author. Other travellers, who have done us the honour of visiting us, have generally viewed us through the medium of their prejudices, and have

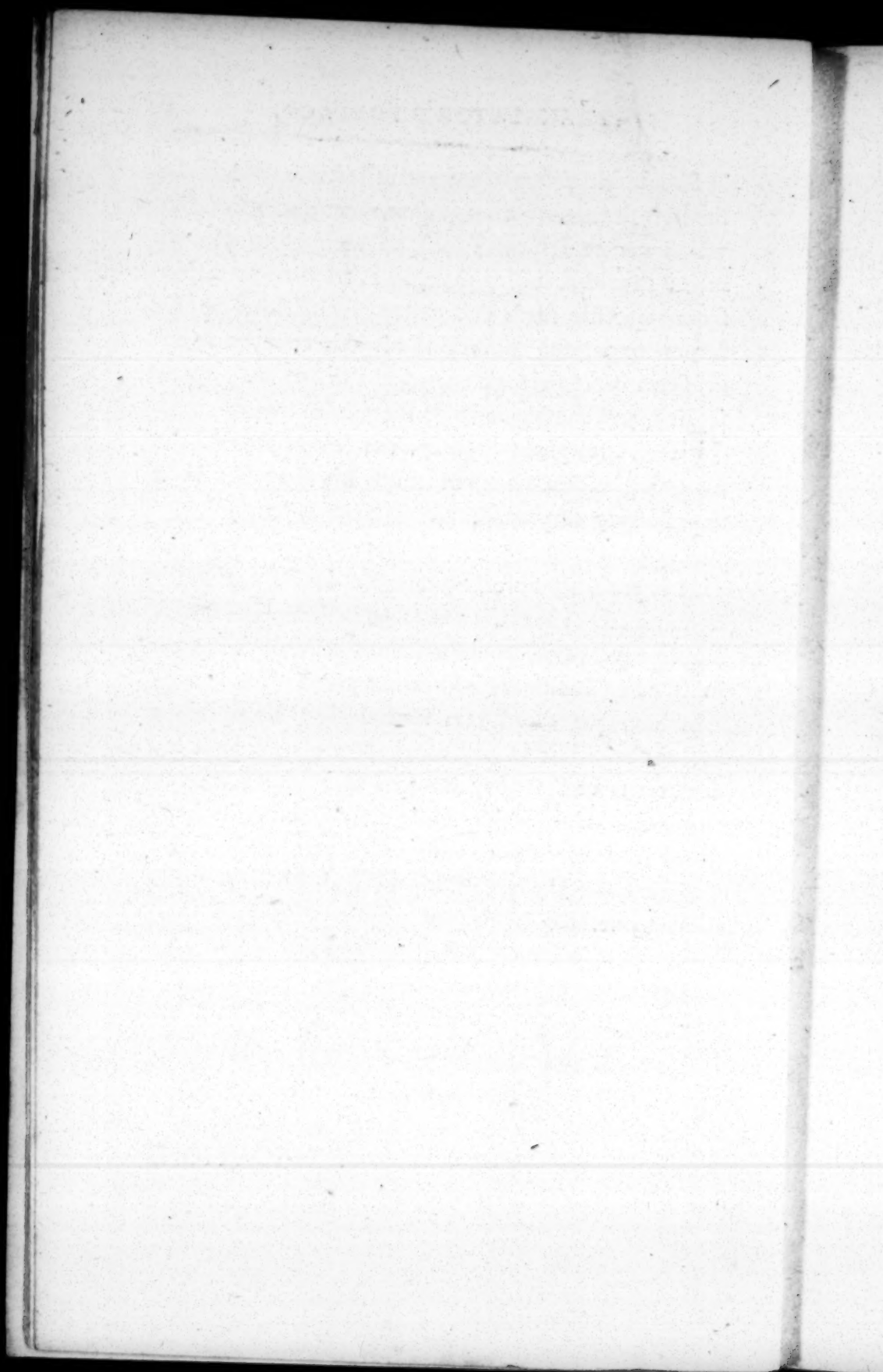
not given foreign nations a very favourable idea of our character or understanding. The writer of these travels does not appear to have been actuated by any prepossession either in our favour, or to our disadvantage: he set out with his baggage on a stick, and travelled through the greatest part of Ireland, so as to make nearly the circuit of the island: he visited the remotest and wildest parts of the country, where the national character may be supposed to have been least modified by an intercourse with strangers; he seems to have endeavoured to paint us such as we are, and I think he has succeeded. Our countrymen do not appear to have been quite so bad as they have been represented; like other nations, they have their virtues and their vices; and if they have had their periods of delirium or folly, what nation has been always exempt from them?

A political survey of this country has been anxiously wished for by those who desire that she should profit of the advantages bestowed by nature. The execution of a project of this kind requires a minute examination of the soil, produce and state of cultivation of the different counties, which can be ascertained by the inhabitants of these places only. But the moral character of the natives, an object of no small importance to the politician, must be more fully investigated by a foreigner, who, uninfluenced by the spirit of religious and political bigotry which rankles in our breasts, views our manners and customs with an impartial eye.

Should

Should his observations and reflections tend, in the smallest degree, to assuage that rancorous animosity which makes Irishmen look on each other as enemies: should it induce them to avert their attention from domestic feuds and paltry distinctions, to the improvement and cultivation of their country, to the diffusion of knowledge among the different classes of society, and consequently to the diminution of party spirit and religious bigotry, the Translator of the following sheets will not think his time has been unprofitably employed.

It is probably necessary to apologize for the length of some of the notes. On some subjects the Translator has ventured to differ from the Author, and on most, as an Irishman, he has felt more. Many reasons have prevented him from laying his opinions before the public in any other shape; he did not indeed conceive that they were of such importance as to have a claim on the public attention, but he imagined they might not prove unacceptable when ushered in under the protection of such a work as the present one.



DEDICATION.

TO THE EARL CONYNGHAM.

MY LORD,

IT is well known how spirited for the public good, was your late respectable uncle, Mr. Burton Conyng-
ham. Ireland has lost him, and will long remember the loss. It is by his kind protection that I have been enabled to execute this work: I wish, my Lord, it may not prove unworthy the protection he afforded to it. Should it prove what engaged him not to disdain my endeavours: *in a hundred thoughts should one be useful*, my labour will not have been lost.

In putting it under the sanction of your Lordship's name, I think myself highly flattered to have an opportunity of paying homage to the memory of the man, that all good men regret, and also to acknowledge the kind attentions I have received from you, my Lord, whose ambition is to follow the same steps, and whose benevolence has already won the hearts of the numerous inhabitants that live on his estates.

I have the honour to be, with gréat regard,

My Lord,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

D^E LATOCNAYE.



AUTHOR's PREFACE.

I FULFIL at length the engagements which I had contracted with the encouragers of this work. If it appears later than was promised, let the difficulty of publishing a French book in a strange country plead my apology. More pains have been taken to avoid typographical errors in this volume than in the first. Not having a French compositor, the labour has wholly fallen on myself, and while correcting, I might often have read what *should* have been written for what *really* was written; I earnestly request the reader to do the same, not merely with respect to the typographical part, but to the style and subject.

Some pleasantry may have escaped me, but none, I will be bold to say, that bears the stamp of ill-humour; and I trust to the reader's candour to make no meaning out of the book, but such as a well-intentioned mind may be supposed to have indulged in.

Encouraged by the success of my first work, I passed over from Great Britain into Ireland, in the intention of publishing such another there, as much with a view to my own instruction, as to the utility it might be of to the country I visited. Not only have I been received with the greatest kindness, but I have been provided with every thing which could promote the execution of my plan. In taking the
circuit

circuit of the island, I have employed eight or nine months, during which space of time I was every where received with a hospitality which has nothing surprising in Ireland. That in such a length of time I have been but six times at an inn, will give a better idea of this hospitality than could be done by many a laboured phrase.

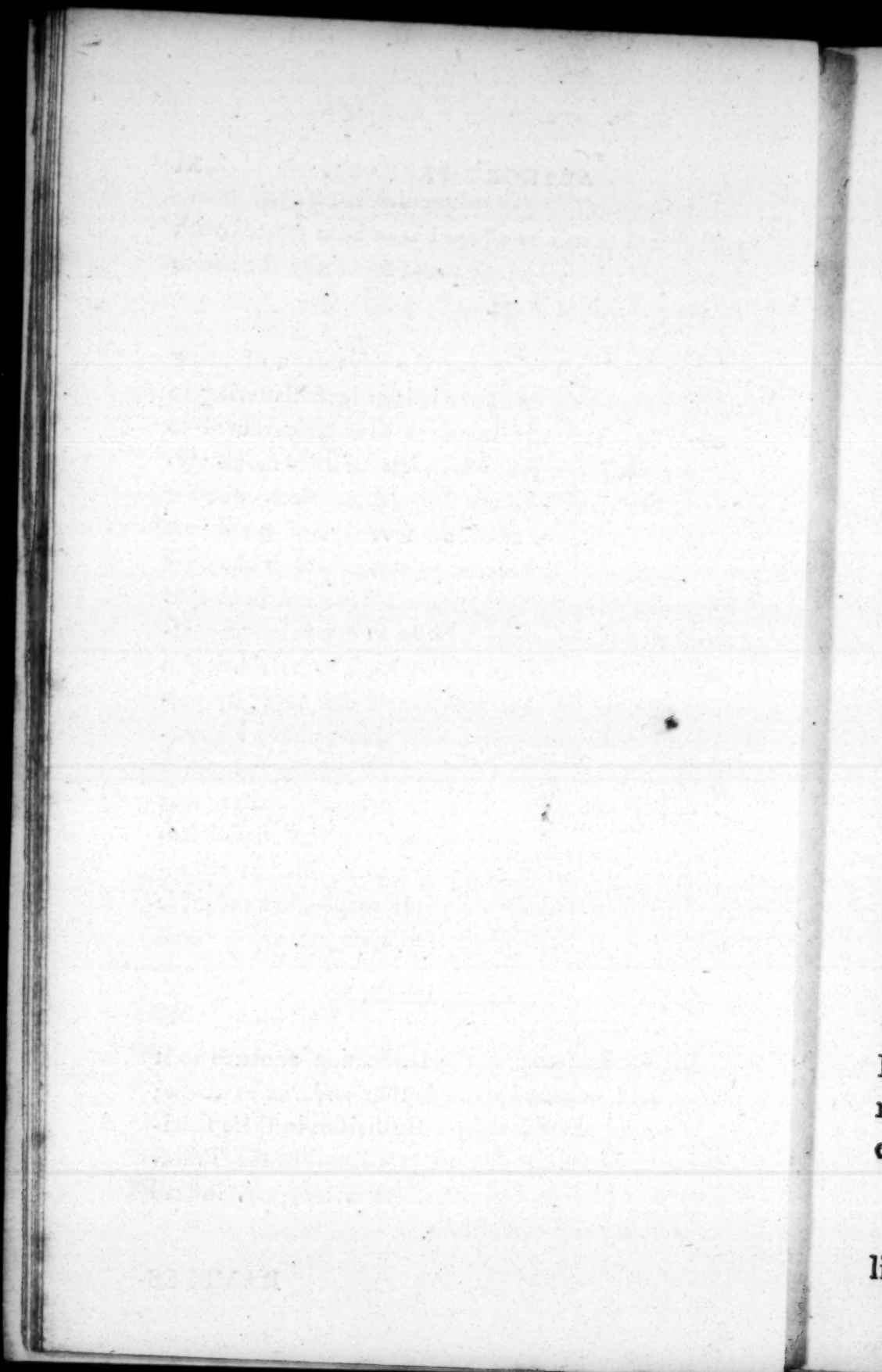
On what was merely personal to myself, I have been silent; some inconveniencies must have been sustained in an expedition of this kind, but they were much fewer than could have been expected. What has most affected me has been the death of Mr. Burton Conyngham, whose plan is in great part followed throughout this work; could I have profited by his advice to its completion, it might have proved a more extensive and more useful one.

At my return to Dublin, I was to have followed the course of all the canals made or projected, and of the navigable rivers; and to have visited the coal-mines of Kilkenny and Leitrim; this tour, through the interior of the country, would have rendered my work more complete; but the disturbances which prevailed, would have let me hope but little safety or satisfaction. Though in the journey from Belfast to Dublin no accident had befallen me, I had, however, seen enough to anticipate nothing seducing in a renewed ramble on foot through high roads; so I remained in the capital, where I have put in order the remarks I had been able to collect, and which I now publish in the hope that they may interest the respected

pected individuals by whom I have been treated with so much kindness, and not prove unworthy the notice of the publick at large.

Fate having denied me the advantage of being useful to my own country, it is at least flattering to me, under that misfortune, to have endeavoured to make myself so to that which has afforded me an asylum. Such has been my invariable object, whether on some occasions affecting severity, or on others giving way to that native gaiety, which is the only good that adverse circumstances have not been able to take away from me. Light as my stile and matter may sometimes be, after what I have said, it can scarce be necessary to add, that I can never by possibility have ment to offend. Never have I knowingly deviated from the exactest truth; and never have I spoken truer, than when I now declare, that if restored to my own country, my dearest satisfaction would be, to try to return to my kind entertainers, that hospitality which, it is my pleasure and pride to repeat, they have bestowed upon me.

THIS Preface and the Dedication annexed to it have been written by the Author *verbatim* as above; and though there are some Gallicisms in these specimens of Monsi. De Latocnaye's English, the Translator has preferred giving them as they are, instead of making any corrections.



R A M B L E S

THROUGH

I R E L A N D.

CHAP. I.

LONDON.—QUIBERON.

I HAD resided more than two years in Scotland, a country celebrated for oaten Cakes, and had every reason to be pleased with my reception, although, like honest Partridge, often in danger of starving in the midst of my friends. The late Lord Dreghorn, who had been kind enough to read my observations on his country, wanted me to print them.

It may appear odd for a stranger to publish a book on Scotland in Edinburgh;—

some would consider it presumptuous that he should pretend to describe what they were so well acquainted with. After many sagacious reflections on this point, I concluded that there is no subject we are so well pleased at talking about as of ourselves; I consequently published my book, which succeeded beyond expectation.

Lord Dreghorn took the trouble of reading over the proof sheets with me;—as I was not in very good humour when writing an account of my tour, it was filled with satyrical remarks on the various situations I had been in!—Truly, said the old Judge, this is very comical, very original, it will make every body laugh . . . except the Scotch; I think you ought not to make the dogs bark 'till you get out of the village. . . . I blotted and altered, 'till even the venerable old man smiled at the joke.

About this time an unfortunate expedition to the coast of France took place, and some thousands of the Emigrants had perished without having done any service. I
resolved

resolved to go see my friends, to weep over the unfortunate victims, and console those who had escaped the carnage.

I went to visit some families at Berwick, where I had been kindly received on my arrival in Scotland, and was happy to find they did not forget me.

Two English companies, who have farmed the Salmon fishery on the Tweed, have some smacks in the port; in some of these are wells into which the sea-water flows; and by these means the Salmon is brought alive to London, though many die during the voyage; in others they are put into fir chests, which are made like coffins, and are covered over with ice, and thus, though Berwick is more than four hundred miles from London, they are preserved fresh.—The proprietors, to increase their gains, receive passengers on board these vessels, where they get tea twice a day and tolerable living for fifteen shillings, the sum they pay for their passage. In order that these merchants should gain, they must suppose that

the passengers being unaccustomed to a sea voyage will be sick and eat nothing during three days, the usual time of their being at sea.

I got on board one of these smacks and sailed with the Salmon, but unfortunately we were retarded by contrary winds; this made me tell the captain, when I recovered from the sea-sickness, that if he did not make haste I would ruin him. We were a week at sea: during this time we passed so near the coast that we were able to distinguish several towns and villages. We first saw Flamborough, then Scarborough, one of those towns where loungers assemble in summer, under pretext of sea-bathing; its castle, built on a rock, appears to great advantage: near Yarmouth the sea was covered with vessels sailing in and out like boats on a canal. Once or twice when the smack put out to sea, I regretted having chosen this mode of travelling. It would have been disagreeable to have met some fans-culottes who would have conveyed me to Paris, though I was bound for London.

At

At any rate it would be unpleasant to be interrupted in my journey.

It was with no small satisfaction I perceived the mouth of the Thames, and as the revenue-officers have nothing to do with the smacks, we soon landed near the tower of London. I had the pleasure of seeing many relations and friends, after an absence of two years among strangers.—Nevertheless I arrived at a melancholy period; it was just after the carnage at Quiberon: there was not a French family in London but had lost a father, a husband, or a brother; they shunned each other—all the bonds of society seemed to have been rent asunder, their sombre melancholy made them look with a suspicious eye on the few friends who remained.—Two parties were formed, one supported Mr. D'Hervilly, the other Mr. D'Puisaye; they mutually accused one another, and each warmly defended the side it had espoused. I joined neither, I admired the ardent courage of the one, without believing the other to be a traitor; though I am

far from approving his conduct, it is certain that what he had promised was literally executed: the landing and the junction of a considerable body of the Chouans; but the succours, which he expected in a few days, did not arrive. This destructive expedition cost us the lives of a great many noblemen of Brittany, and of many of the ci-devant naval officers of France sacrificed to no purpose.

It appears that when the body that were made prisoners had laid down their arms, it was not the intention of the republican chiefs to put them to death; they were above fifteen hundred, and were guarded by about three hundred men; the night was so dark that they were obliged to hold each other by the coat in order not to go astray; many however missed their way and were obliged to cry out for a long time before any person came to guide them.— Some republican officers, who foresaw what would happen them, prevailed on their acquaintance (as I have heard) to make their escape, but such gentlemen as had pledged
their

their word did not take advantage of the opportunity. They were some time prisoners at Varennes on parole, but at length their condemnation arrived, they had a mock-trial and were shot; some however, even after their imprisonment, contrived to escape, and from them we have learned the circumstances of this bloody tragedy.

From their narration it is evident that the soldiers and the inhabitants, of the towns through which they passed, looked on their execution with horror. The Chouans were masters of the country, and yet a few strangers from Liege succeeded, by the terror they inspired, in executing the orders of the monsters who employed them. It is thus the most atrocious crimes of the revolution were committed. Europe was often astonished at the bravery and energy of the Parisians, when there was more cause for being surprised at their cowardice and weakness. Men are in general a vile herd, ever ready to obey whomsoever they dread. There can be no doubt that the seven eighths of those who assisted at the martyrdom of Louis
the

the XVI. would have been better pleased to see him escape, and even a great proportion of the remainder would have looked on with indifference.

It may seem paradoxical if I should assert that not more than a dozen individuals were determined to destroy him, and perhaps these were merely the foot-stools of two or three ambitious scoundrels. The astonishing victories and the dazzling success of the republican arms may be objected to this opinion, but have we not seen, long before the French revolution, Frederick the Great beat the kings of Europe with their own subjects? Did he not oblige the forty thousand Saxons whom he made prisoners to enlist in spite of them? When two armies are in presence of each other, the opinions of the individuals who compose them signify nothing, they must fight in their own defence; the danger of deserting is so great, that except in particular circumstances, few will attempt it. Besides the allies did not wage war for or against the king: it was but too notorious
they

they made war against France. On this account every person, whatever his political opinions were, was interested in the defence of his country.

On the report of the expedition to Quiberon the Emigrants assembled from the four quarters of the globe, to receive intelligence of its unfortunate termination. The king's brother came from the remotest part of Germany, and was informed of the disaster on the coast of England. Nevertheless war still raged in La Vendée, and the brave defenders of monarchy demanded the assistance which had been so often and so ineffectually promised. It was at last determined to make a descent on their coast; if the forces lost at Quiberon had been sent there, they would have produced an important diversion.

It would seem as if they were not serious in their intentions; many persons of property from that country offered to embark as volunteers in the fleet, in order to be landed on the coast and to use their efforts
to

to stir up the peasantry to revolt, this was refused them except they enlisted. The expedition however took place, the prince was conveyed to the Isle Dieu, and after enduring many hardships, the fleet returned without striking a blow.

I was surprised at observing that the Emigrants were more at their ease than at my departure two years before; in whatever situation Providence places us, time and resignation enable us to bear every thing; many earned a livelihood by some kind of industry; all the ladies embroidered, and government gave some trifling assistance to them, as well as to the priests and to those who were more than fifty years old. Those who suffered most were the rich landholders, such as had possessed considerable estates in France, who being accustomed to live on their rents, without troubling themselves about the morrow, had not the resources which others found in themselves.

After having visited my old friends, my spirit of observation did not permit me to remain

remain idle. I frequented every assembly of men from the tavern to the parliament, and from the church to the dog and duck: and every where, as Solomon says, I found nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit.

I had some letters of recommendation, a few were addressed to very rich people: what a dismal countenance they assumed when I presented myself to them; the name of Emigrant did not appear to sound very agreeably in their ears: it certainly was not more harsh to them than to me.

Many, however, who had perused my Rambles in Great-Britain, persuaded me to undertake such another tour in Ireland: I had nothing to do, the country was new to me, I got most magnificent passports and letters of recommendation: I could not resist the temptation.

Before my departure I wished to know how those amiable and learned gentlemen the booksellers had disposed of my work, and I was soon able to guess it the moment

I entered

I entered the shop. When the bookmonger came up to me with an affable and smiling air, I did not say a word but turned on my heel and left him. On the contrary when he made a wry countenance and began to grumble, it was a quite different business, I was convinced he had sold all the copies, and obliged him to pay me.

I witnessed also the polite reception the king met with in parliament in 1796: the rage of the mob really astonished me: as I never had seen any thing similar, I trembled for the consequences; an old English officer who was with me said, "It would be nothing, they would be soon as quiet as before, it was merely to tell his majesty a little of their mind." They made a terrible noise, and two handsome young women were so much alarmed that they threw themselves into our arms. When I looked at her who had taken refuge in mine, I gave her a warm embrace, merely to encourage her: the Englishman on the contrary, put his hands on his pockets. This trait may perhaps serve to characterize both nations.

I was

I was present once at one of those political clubs, that are so numerous in London; after settling the balance of Europe, one of the orators raising his voice more than ordinary, exclaimed: "Really this Clairfait is a clever fellow, he has saved Germany by the capture of the Rhine." Then turning to me with an air of importance, "You were doubtless in that country," said he, "it must be a strong city." "Certainly," said I, "for it is a large sheet of water." Another of them then, after laughing heartily at the mistake, looking very grave, "I beg of you," said he, "to tell me the name of the French admiral in this affair." When I described the Rhine to them as not broader than the Thames at Chelsea, they were astonished the business had made such a noise, "For," said they, "there is nothing easier than to pass the river in a boat." I then went in the stage-coach to Mr. Blair's at Beaconsfield, where I spent a week very agreeably; it was in the neighbourhood that the celebrated Burke wept for the loss of his son and the misfortunes of Europe. I soon ar-

rived at Bath, and participated in the pleasures of the place; the idlers there seem not to know what to do with themselves; they lounge from the pump to the gambling-table, from that to the ball, thence to the bookfellers, and from the bookfellers to bed, where they at least are some hours unconscious of their existence.

This city though very agreeable in many respects, becomes after some time unpleasant to those who have not acquaintances; they are so eager in the pursuit of pleasure, that it escapes from them. There were a few Emigrants in Bath who appeared better off than those in London, where they were too numerous. This city had been much enlarged since I passed through it before, the extensive and magnificent additions prove that it is much resorted to by the inhabitants of Great-Britain.

I went thence to Bristol, with a view of taking ship for Ireland, but the wind was contrary; I remained there some days, and in the interim went to visit the hot wells; I
soon

soon became intimate with the company, played cards with the ladies, and lost.

Tired of waiting for a fair wind, I resolved to go in quest of it. The machine which carried us and the letters with nearly the same ceremony went so fast that all I could see was that we had like to be thrown on the banks of the Severn, where I think they ought to make a road, and a port for the boat.

This part of Wales is agreeably intersected by hills and vallies, which are very fertile and not very deep. The countrywomen wear an old coat over their cloaths, and a straw hat, which covers them all over. The cabins of the peasants resemble those of the Scotch mountaineers, and they speak a dialect of the celtic, which is very similar to the language made use of in Lower Brittany.

Swansey is a large port where people generally embark for Bristol and the south of England. . . . All I could remark of the

manners of the inhabitants was, that at Carmarthen, where the inhabitants use a square boat or rather a basket covered with horsehide in the salmon-fishery, they balance themselves very dexterously and stand straight ; when they have done fishing they carry home their boat, and it serves as a cradle for their children.

The grave-yard, also attracted my attention, instead of being crowded with tombs and ridiculous inscriptions, the graves are adorned with flowers, and are often visited by the friends of the deceased, so that they resemble gardens more than the abode of death. It is impossible but such a people must be gentle in their manners; I was sorry not to be able to remain longer among them, but as I intended to visit Ireland, I went to Milford-Haven, an ugly hole, where a traveller may spend every penny in his pocket, waiting for a fair wind. Three or four times did we put to sea, and were as often driven back by the adverse waves; at length the fourth time we stopped at Deal, a small
village

village at the mouth of the bay, where we remained a week.

How disagreeable my situation would have been in the common course of things, in spite of the prospect of a fine bay and a remarkable country! But luckily an amiable Scotch family and an Irishman, who had served in France, were embarked in the same vessel, and I found myself so well off that I rather feared than wished for a fair wind. We at last put to sea, and sailed so fast that we made the opposite coast in twenty-four hours.

The revenue-officers at both sides of the water levy a tax of half a crown a head on passengers for permission to embark and disembark their luggage: one of them having refused to pay, his luggage was terribly mauled. The price of the voyage is exorbitant, a guinea and a half for the cabin, and the packet-boat is far from being clean or convenient: I had chosen this route from motives of economy, and it cost me twice as much as if I had come by Hollyhead;

at length we got into the Suir, at the mouth of which there is a castle built on a rock that juts into the sea: Mr. Latin, one of the passengers, was kind enough to invite me to his place at Drumdonny, and thus the moment I landed I had a sample of Irish hospitality.

CHAP. II.

DUBLIN.

THE banks of the Suir are covered with handsome country-seats agreeably situated; the river is very deep as far as Waterford; this city is very flourishing, and carries on a great trade in salt provisions. The quay would have been a great ornament to it, if the magistrates had not taken it into their heads to build docks for the construction of ships, and some ugly houses for the service of the publick. Some persons may imagine that it would have been better to build

build the docks on the other side of the river for the convenience of the workmen; besides the quay would not have been spoiled, nor the inhabitants suffocated by the smell of pitch and tar, but oh! sweet smell of gain!

The bridge is the finest in Ireland; the wooden piles are covered by thirty-three feet of water at high tides, its beauty and solidity, at so deep a part of the river, do honour to the architect, who has built many on the same model.

There was then an American ship in the harbour with passengers from Nantes to New-York: it had been shipwrecked on the Irish coast a few days after leaving France. The inhabitants raised a subscription for them with which they got provisions for the voyage. I asked them many questions about France: they were mostly artisans; all they could tell me was that bread was dear, that there was a deal of wretchedness at Nantes and that they were going to New-York to look for work.

As

As I intended to get to Dublin as soon as possible, I took a place in the coach which carried me only to Gowran, where it meets with the mail from Cork; unfortunately all the places were occupied, so that I was left in this wretched village without being able to get any farther except on what they call a car. Their car is a kind of carriage very low, on wheels of two feet in diameter, and made of one or two pieces of wood fixed either on an iron or wooden axle-tree, which turns round with them; I believe this curious machine may be very well adapted for conveying heavy burdens, but does not appear suited for the rustic labours in which it is used. One would however suppose from its structure that it was invented by some very careful farmer, for it is so near the horse's tail that whatever falls is not lost.

Having bargained then with a carman to carry me six miles for the same price I would pay for a post-chaise, I placed myself and my luggage in the vehicle. The carman stopped at every ale-house to chat
or

or drink, and left me under the rain: I at first begged of him very politely to continue his journey, but I soon perceived that he took no notice of what I said, I then began to bawl out some of those compliments which may be so easily acquired by frequenting the bridges and market-places of London; this method seemed to make an impression on him, for on quitting his friends I heard him say, "by Shefus "I am sure he is a jointleman, for he swears "confoundedly." After this lecture I had no more trouble with him, but the rain and the merchandize with which the horse had filled my pockets put me so much out of humour, that I resolved never again to expose myself to the danger of committing such a fraud.

I went from thence to Carlow, where a seminary for catholic priests had been lately established:—this city is situated on the Barrow, which joins the great canal of Ireland; as I wished to see it, I went to Athy, where barges sail for Dublin every day. On entering this village, I was stopped by
four

four or five persons asking for charity to bury (as they said) a poor wretch who died of hunger: I answered that as he was dead he wanted for nothing; they did not however seem satisfied with this excuse, and I contributed my mite to his funeral; perhaps it was on this occasion only that his friends troubled themselves about him.

The barges on this canal are very convenient, and resemble those of Holland, but the price of the voyage is double as much. The one in which I travelled was full of those political haranguers, whom in France, we call spies; perceiving me to be a stranger, one of them wished to enter into conversation with me on some dangerous political topics. After making some ambiguous answers, fearing to be misinterpreted, I pretended to fall asleep:—it is an excellent plan in such a case.

This canal is a grand work, it passes through extensive bogs, where they have been obliged to dig ten or twelve feet, before they got at earth to make the sides and
bottom

bottom of the canal. We passed several aqueducts, one of which is of a prodigious height and length.

Dublin is a large city, about quarter the size of London, which it resembles in miniature; even the streets are called by the same names, and its buildings vie in beauty with those of the capital: a person is surprized at their number and magnificence. The palace where the parliament assemble does honour to the representatives of the nation, it is an immense circular building, and surrounded by magnificent columns. It is worth remarking that the place where the deputies of the greatest nations assemble is generally an ugly old building, to which people become so much attached that they do not think of building another. The royal exchange is pretty like the mayor's house in London, but smaller: the custom-house is too fine for such a place, and the new buildings called the four-courts of justice, afford Themis the pleasure of seeing herself decently lodged, which by the bye is pretty seldom the case in the rest of Europe;

Europe; her former habitation was really frightful, both on account of her votaries, and of the gloomy cave where they met; as it was not at all probable that I should ever get into their clutches, I found some amusement in walking near them: I laughed in my sleeve at their immense wigs, in which the face is buried, so that you can only see the tip of their nose; they put you in mind of hawks ready to pounce on their prey, and who are entirely covered up, except their bill. If fame be not a liar, their attainments are by no means inferior to our procureurs, and it would seem, by some little stories I have heard of them that they are still more knowing.

The squares are large and well built, the port alone does not correspond with the rest of the city; a larger basin has been lately dug, which will remedy this defect, when some houses are built on the banks to protect it from the wind; it is odd that they have not a handsome church in Dublin, they are all old and without the smallest ornament; there are only two wretched steeples,

steeple, which prevent the city from appearing to such advantage at a distance as it otherwise would.

As I do not intend to give a topographical description of this city, I shall not describe its palaces and magnificent buildings. The carriages and apparent opulence of some of the first houses form a striking contrast with the squalid poverty of the beggars. They are posted near cellars, where they insist on charity and at the same time deprive the inhabitants of those dwellings of light; some are indeed so insolent that they seem to obtain by force what people would not be disposed to grant them willingly. These disgusting scenes harden the heart by degrees; I never felt less inclination to be charitable than whilst in Dublin.

I employed my leisure hours, as usual on such occasions, in rambling over the city, and getting into every crowd. I got among a number of people, who seemed to wait anxiously for something, and went

in the midst of them to a large building, which resembled an old castle; there was a small stage on the level of the window in the second story; several ill-looking fellows appeared on it, I at first thought that some odd ceremony was to be performed; but I soon perceived my mistake, for one of them tied a cord about the neck of another and then tied it to an iron bar above him: the poor wretch remained a moment alone exposed to the view of the people, and then the scaffold fell against the wall. . . . By this specimen it may be seen that the Irish have improved on their neighbours method of hanging people gracefully: but for my part I think it cruel to exhibit the execution of criminals as a shew; by diminishing the horror of the punishment, crimes and consequently executions are multiplied: I am inclined to believe this may be the reason why there are more persons hanged in Great-Britain and Ireland than in the rest of Europe.

The crowd seemed to go towards some other place, and I followed them 'till we
got

got to the phoenix-park, where there was a horse-race; I cannot decide whether the execution or the race afforded most pleasure to the many-headed monster. .

Although the part of the city which rich people inhabit is perhaps as handsome as any in Europe, that in which the lower elass dwell can be equalled only by the wretchedness and filthiness of the inhabitants; this quarter is called the liberties of Dublin, and reminded me of the liberty of France during the reign of Rober-pierre; nothing could be more disgusting and horrid.

Among those to whom I had letters of recommendation were generals and physicians, bishops and priests, bankers and authors, lords and professors, lawyers and attornies. Mr. Burton Cunningham was one of those who received me most kindly, he encouraged me in my project; he was a worthy man, attached to the interests of his country, and to whatever could promote them; I may now do him justice

without suspicion of flattery, for he is dead. He was kind enough to introduce me to some of his literary acquaintances; some of them were very well informed and very amiable, but there was not one I knew but had something original in his manner.

The cabinet of minerals, of which Mr. Kirwan takes care, deserves the attention of the curious; it contains an interesting collection of all the minerals and stones that are known. Lord Charlemount's library is a treasure of taste and elegance.

A person who had seen Irishmen in foreign countries only would suppose them to be very gallant and sociable; those very persons who seem to find so much pleasure in saying soft things to our wives, do not seem at all pleased to see theirs in a similar predicament. When an Irishman is introduced to John Roastbeef in England, the latter immediately apprehends some conspiracy against his purse, his wife, his daughter, or his wine. In Dublin they pay a stranger in his own coin, they are shy
in

in receiving him: one would think they remembered their juvenile indiscretions. Their only assemblies here are what they call routs, that is when a house contains twenty persons they invite sixty and so in proportion: I was at one of these routs where from the street-door to the garret every room was full of handsome well-dressed ladies, so closely stowed that they could hardly stir and spoke through their fans. A stranger has some cause of embarrassment in these dazzling assemblies, for he may perhaps see more charming women than in many cities: he is apt to think they may spend their time more agreeably among a few friends who knew their value, than on a staircase.

Almost all the rich people spend more than they are worth, and are thus obliged to have recourse to ruinous expedients to support their extravagance: in the populous parts of Europe this prodigality far from injuring society, encourages the arts and those talents that render life agreeable; in Ireland it produces a contrary effect,

because the objects of their caprice are not the produce of the country, and thus the arts are not encouraged, and those who cultivate them, perceiving they are despised, are obliged to look out for a country where their talents are esteemed. The only thing I would recommend to those lords who wish to ruin themselves would be to employ Irish manufacturers; this would be really patriotic.

As soon as it was known I intended to give some sketches of the people, some persons procured me amusements and introduced me into places where no stranger had ever been admitted before.

Others were kind enough to shew me, as an encouragement, the chamber-pot on the bottom of which Mr. Twiss's portrait is drawn. This Twiss was an Englishman who did not want for sense, but, like many of his countrymen, was full of prejudices in favour of his country and looked on the other nations of the world as a race of inferior beings. After running through
Europe

Europe with this notion, he came at length to Ireland and was imprudent enough to appear dissatisfied because the persons to whom he was recommended did not invite him often. . . . He might have recollected that this was in imitation of their mode of treating strangers in England, where they sometimes are so obliging as to invite you to a tavern, and to make you pay your reckoning. On expressing his dissatisfaction he was answered rather drily, which increased his spleen : he then began his journey and experienced what I have experienced myself, hospitality combined with too much ceremony; the person to whom you present a letter pays you a ceremonious visit the day following, and three or four days after sends you a card to come and dine with him. It is certainly rather odd to oblige a poor traveller to remain so long a time in a little town where he can have no acquaintance, in order to procure him the pleasure of seeing a service of plate shining on the side-board, the servants in livery, a monstrous piece of beef on the table, and a set of inquisitive persons

sons sitting about it ; but 'tis the custom, and they think it a piece of politeness not to invite you the first day ; in every town however there are some who follow the good old custom, a traveller then has only to get letters for people in different situations.

This method displeased Mr. Twiss, and as when a man is displeased himself he very naturally displeases others ; Mr. Twiss contrived to render himself very disagreeable : he finished his travels as soon as possible, and on his return published about fifty pages not of what he had observed ; but what had been mentioned four or five hundred years ago ; it is certain that his accounts are very original, particularly of the manner in which girls made bread in Cork in the year 1400. He also amused himself with some jokes on potatoe-skins and on the ladies legs ; this is certainly a delicate subject, and no person should reveal any observations he might be lucky enough to make on this head. These remarks displeased the Irish, and they took the

the childish revenge of painting him, with his mouth open, at the bottom of a chamber-pot.

'Tis rather a comical situation for a professed traveller; come Mr. Twiss, another volume of your remarks and be sure to tell truth! However he was probably consoled by the sale of his work which, though worth very little, sold so well, that I could hardly get a copy of it in Dublin. For my part I have no enmity against any person, I have imbibed none of the prejudices of this people, the religious and political quarrels that have so long divided them, are as indifferent to me as those of China; why then should I not tell what I think, and what would my book be worth, if I was mean enough to flatter any person?

One of my acquaintances took me to a private theatre: it is certainly one of the most sumptuous of the kind that I have seen, the building is very handsome, the company numerous and select; a man is
really

really dazzled by the number of fine women he sees, and if I could find pleasure in being squeezed in a crowd, it would be in that of the parlour, which serves as a coffee-house, when the play is over. I must say however that this theatre injures the publick one very much; actors cannot be expected to be good, except they are well paid, and if these young men ruin themselves in striving to become actors, they won't be disposed to encourage persons who are their rivals in more senses than one, for the actresses come from the publick theatre. Men are not admitted except they subscribe, and the price of subscription comes to about a guinea for each representation: every man may take two ladies with him, and the evening I happened to be there, a young man dressed himself in woman's cloaths and got himself introduced by one of his friends. Unfortunately he was rather gay and let slip a few oaths rather unbecoming a lady, the audience were scandalized, and he was turned out: some of the actors performed tolerably well, but I ask pardon for it, I cannot

cannot reconcile myself to people of rank appearing on a stage before the publick, for the audience are so numerous as to deserve this name. I must take this opportunity of thanking those who procured me admittance.

The publick theatre is an ugly building, and not being much frequented, the actors are scarcely superior to those in a small country town.

They have hit on an odd kind of amusement in Dublin, the profits of which go to the support of the lying-in hospital; it is called promenade: on account of the name, I wished to know what it was: people were walking about in a circular room called the rotunda, there seemed to be less restraint than in private houses, though people spoke only to those in their company; after some time a bell rang, and the company hurried to a door which was opened, and every one placed himself with his friends round a tea-table; for my part I was alone, and could not get any body
to

to join me ; this gave me an opportunity of examining the company : they seemed all tranquil and gay, which pleased me the more, because it was unexpected ; there were few mothers, and those who were there did not seem to pay any attention to the company ; there were on the other hand many young ladies, who appeared very busy, in short I make no doubt but the promenade perfectly answered its object, viz : that of promoting the lying-in of women. The hospital has the profits of this amusement only to support it ; sometimes balls are given there, for which the room seems better adapted than for promenades.

There are many hospitals supported by subscription [in this country as well as in England ; I do not like to see the succour given to the poor depend thus upon the caprice and whim of the day. If it was not the fashion to subscribe, what would become of these establishments ?—They were formerly supported by land-rents, but they were deprived of them by the reformation, and some rich families took possession

session of them in order to prevent the dilapidation, of which the administrators were accused.

The hospital for aged persons does honour to this city; as by this means a great number of fathers of families who have been reduced to poverty in the latter end of their days are provided for.

The house of industry is a considerable establishment, where there are near seventeen hundred poor persons; it is supported partly by their labour; their fare is much better than that of most peasants, they have flesh-meat once a week, bread, potatoes, and other vegetables every day, very clean beds, their clothes alone are not changed. Every poor man who offers himself has a right to be received: those who enter voluntarily may go out once a week. In spite of these advantages the love of liberty is so deeply implanted in the human breast, that very few enter it voluntarily, and those who are there are planning how to escape.

The artifans and tradesmen are employed in various and very opposite occupations: perhaps the mediocrity of their work may proceed from this circumstance.

Whilst I was in Dublin, it was the fashion among people of quality to go to the charity sermons of a famous preacher, Mr. Kirwan; it has often happened that a thousand or twelve hundred pounds have been collected on these occasions: this money goes to the support of charity-schools established for orphans. The ladies of Dublin are busied in little works of which they furnish the materials, and which they afterwards sell for the benefit of these schools: I was in very few families, where some ladies were not employed in this manner. As the other classes of society are very much disposed to imitate their superiors, this has rendered charity-sermons very common in Dublin: it is happy they have so good an example to copy,

I find Mr. Kirwan an excellent preacher, who combines good sense with an uncommon

common degree of eloquence; he knows how to draw from the purse of the sinner what frigid charity alone would try in vain to obtain. Nevertheless the warmth of his colouring and his animated gestures have spoiled preaching in this city: the pulpit is often occupied by enthusiasts, who are so extravagantly ridiculous, that you would imagine the devil himself was come to give us a spice of his oratory. It is odd how every thing in this world depends upon fashion: at Dublin, in order to copy after a favourite preacher who certainly has a vast deal of merit, the mob of preachers affect declamation and the most theatrical gestures; at Edinburgh on the contrary, where Mr. Greenfield the favourite minister has adopted a different manner, they remain motionless, their eyes fixed on a particular object and deliver without the least emotion a most frigid sermon; they have so little animation, that you might as well put a gown on a log!—In both cases they are governed by the desire of imitating a man justly esteemed by the publick. Mr. Greenfield's excuse for remaining motionless,

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tionless, is, that nature has formed him so oddly, that if during his sermon any ridiculous object struck him, he could not help falling into a fit of laughter. . . . This is one of the oddest reasons I ever heard: if an obscure person took it in his head to give such an excuse, what would people think of him? At any rate I see no more reason why the ministers at Edinburgh should imitate Mr. Greenfield, than why those of Dublin should caricature Mr. Kirwan; propriety is equally distant from both extremes.

Justice is distributed nearly as in England, and the price of law and medicine is equally dear here: not only the poor but those who are not possessed of a considerable fortune are absolutely deprived of the assistance of the latter: even in the remotest provinces of Great-Britain, as well as in Ireland, the middle ranks can hardly expect the visit of a son of Esculapius, without paying one or two guineas a visit, and perhaps they might examine if they were light or not. Nevertheless physicians consider

sider it a duty to visit the poor or those who, though they may not precisely belong to this class, are not able to pay, gratis; and there are many very well informed and very respectable persons in this class.

There are also establishments to enable the poor to have recourse to justice at a small expence, but no person who is not in absolute poverty can with any decency apply to them, and the poor man has no small difficulty in making the judge attend to him; there are some instances of poor men who have obtained speedy redress, but it is only by the influence of rich people, who took their cause in hand, and considered it as their own.

Lawyers are very respectable in Great-Britain and Ireland, and many well informed persons belong to this class.— Whatever people may say attornies are not so bad as they are represented, I have found some of them very honourable and amiable men; however it is said that when a person has any business with one of them

he must take care not to salute him in the street, for it would be charged in the bill. Still less must he be invited to dinner, for besides the difficulty of filling his profound stomach, he may perhaps charge a guinea or two for having made so good use of his teeth.

I have heard of one of these gentlemen, who regularly charged his client for having thought of him during dinner. While I was at Dublin, a lady in the country begged of one of them to carry a letter to her sister, the moment he arrived in town he took a coach and went to see her, as she was absent he returned every day for a fortnight, and having met with her at last, he gave her the letter with an account of fifteen guineas for his trouble and coach-hire. I never would finish were I to relate all the stories told about them; what Lord Chesterfield told the Dutchess of Kingston might apply on this occasion, "That we should not believe more than half what the world says."

It

It appears to me that the laws of England require too many oaths; they are taken on every occasion: but is it not evident that a rogue will make no scruple of committing a crime the more, if he derives any advantage from it, and that an honest man does not require this formality?

The court of the Lord Lieutenant at Dublin is nearly as brilliant as that of the King, and the palace in which it is held equals at least that of St. James's. Mr. Burton Conyngham was kind enough to present me to Lord Camden who being informed of my plan, thought it might be of some utility, I then began to prepare for it, and read all the ancient histories and works that treat about it.

If we believed some of their authors, we never could imagine they were writing about Ireland: their pompous descriptions of the mighty monarch and of the numerous kings who composed his court would make us suppose that he was more magnificent than Alexander after the conquest of Asia.

When

When we pierce the cloud with which all nations love to envelop their origin, it appears that even in a very remote period this country had excited the avidity of strangers; the *Thuatha d'ha Denan*, which signifies the tribes of the Danes, succeeded the Belgians. The Irish chronicles mention that a hord of Tartars sojourned a long time in Phœnica, that they sent different colonies into Egypt and at length established a monarchy in Spain, in that part which joins France near the coast of Galicia, and after remaining three or four hundred years in that country, a considerable army under the command of Milesius embarked for the neighbouring coasts of Ireland. Finding the people in this island little superior to savages, they had no difficulty in conquering them in spite of the enchantments of the *Thuatha d'ha Denan*: Milesius established a feudal government very similar to that which now subsists in Germany. The entire island was divided into four and sometimes five kingdoms, which were subdivided into a great number of principalities. It appears that the four principal

principal sovereigns had the right of choosing a monarch among themselves, as in Germany, where the seven electors, whose dominions are parcelled out into little principalities, have the liberty of choosing the Emperor, who is the chief of the Germanic body.

During almost eighteen centuries they had no other enemies to contend with but the Danes, who were once masters of the country for some time, 'till O'Brien Boromhe, king of Munster and monarch of Ireland, totally defeated them at Clontarf near Dublin, so that they never afterwards dared to appear in the field ; they left many monuments of their conquests in every part of Ireland, such as those forts which the inhabitants call *Rath*, the cultivation of the land adjacent to the coast, and of heights which now appear incapable of improvement, it appears that they chose them as places of safety, and to avoid the trouble of cutting down the wood which grew in the land that is now cultivated.

This

This number of petty princes and nations produced eternal wars and dissensions ; the different parties fought with the rage always attendant on civil wars ; there were few great monarchs or even kings who died a natural death ; this Boroimhe who delivered his country from the Danish yoke was killed in battle, and his son, far from being received with open arms by his countrymen, was obliged to fight his way to the throne, and had a vast deal of difficulty in getting possession of it.

It is surprising that in a state of perpetual warfare, the fine arts could have flourished in Ireland ; it appears however, that these quarrels and national jealousies had not extinguished the sciences, for which they were indebted to Milesius and his followers : though Ireland was always a prey to civil war, it was far from being in the situation of those countries on the continent, where Goths, Vandals, and other barbarians succeeded each other.

The Greeks appear to have been in the same predicament : their country was near-

ly of the same extent as Ireland, and like this island divided into little principalities and what is worse into little republicks, without being, as in Germany, under the controul of any supreme chief, whose authority might restrain them: the consequence was that it was distracted by intestine wars of nation against nation, and city against city: in spite of this no people in the world carried the arts and sciences to a greater degree of perfection.

Party rage had been so destructive, two hundred years before the arrival of the English on the coast, that the nation was weakened and sunk into a state of barbarity, from which the rest of Europe was just beginning to emerge; perhaps the progress of science on the continent contributed to its decay in Ireland, by driving away the learned men whom fear had obliged to take refuge there.

There are a few monuments, which have escaped the destructive hand of time, and
the

the rage of civil dissention; these are some proclamations of the Irish Kings, which prove that the nation had attained a very high degree of civilization.

General Vallancey, in his ingenious researches on Irish antiquities has made a remarkable discovery, which proves clearly the traditions which the inhabitants have preserved of their origin. Plautus, in one of his comedies, the scene of which is in Sicily, introduces a Carthaginian general lamenting the loss of his daughter in his native language: the literati had laboured to explain this passage, but in vain. The copyists had joined or separated the words, according to their fancy; but General Vallancey, without separating the letters but merely putting them where they ought to be, has succeeded with no small difficulty in explaining them, and has clearly proved that the Irish and the language of the Carthaginian general are the same.

Some passages differ very much, but scarcely more than the French of Rabelais does

does from the modern French, but there are others where there is not the difference of a single letter, and which are pronounced as at present : for instance in the middle of the Carthaginian general's lamentation, he is interrupted by the news that his daughter has been found in the temple of Venus : on which he repeats this verse.

Handone filli hanum bene filli in mustine.

LITERALLY.—When Venus grants a favour, it is generally attended by some misfortune.

There were two languages in Ireland, the language of men of letters and that of the people, which was a corrupt dialect of it ; the first was spoken at court, and must have been the antient Punick ; the other must have been the Erse, Irish, Celtic, and Gaelic.

History informs us that the Carthaginians were a colony of the Phœnicians, and must consequently have spoken the same language,

guage, and when we find this same language among a people long unknown to the rest of Europe, and whose history and traditions combine to prove that their ancestors were a Phœnician colony, a person must be very incredulous to refuse to believe them.

The Scotch claim the same origin, and, as the language of both nations differs no more than that of two counties in England, their claims cannot be disputed, particularly as both nations perfectly coincide in this point. The only difference is that the Irish chronicle mentions this emigration to have happened at an earlier period than the Scotch does. It appears from the latter it was nearly about the same time the Romans pursued the Caledonians, the ancient inhabitants of Scotland; whether it was to assist them in resisting the conqueror, or to take advantage of their misfortunes, to seize on the part of the country they had abandoned; they established themselves, as I have mentioned, on the western coasts, and after tedious and
bloody

bloody wars against the Romans, the Picts, the Caledonians, and the Danes, they at last made themselves masters of the country.

Ireland, though little known, was called *Scotia* in the geographical works of the ancients. In the ancient manuscripts of the country the inhabitants were called *Scuidh*, or even *Scots* or *Scyt*: some with an appearance of probability derive this name from the ancient Scythians or Tartars, whose country was the cradle of the human race.

The name of Ireland in the language of the country is *Erin* or *Ennis Erin*, which means the western island, this is not however very important; but when we speak of a people, it is proper to know their names, surnames, origin and claims, in order to avoid mistakes, and particularly not to offend them.

St. Patrick, the saint of this country, came to preach the gospel here in the third century; he had many battles with the devil, but at length came off victorious, and

to recompense a faithful people and to keep them in the true belief, he managed so cunningly that he drew all the devils to the top of a mountain, and then threw them into a deep hole ; he was kind enough also to bring all the rats, frogs, serpents, tygers lions and other venomous animals (as the historian calls them) and threw them into the same hole ; when he had done this, he pulled a large stone over it, which may be still seen at *Croagh Patrick*, near Westport. None of these animals dared shew themselves for a long time in Ireland, but unfortunately the true faith being rather on the decline, rats and frogs have ventured to come back, and it is much to be feared the others will also get out.

On the anniversary of this great saint, the country people come to town, and after getting themselves bled, walk through the city with a certain herb in their hat ; the court assists at the ceremonies of the order of St. Patrick, and gives a ball in the evening.

I went

I went on a review day to the Phoenix-park, they were firing cannon, but for my part, I let the cits look at the manoeuvres of the soldiers, I took more pleasure in reviewing the ladies who were walking; there were three yellow bonnets that formed a battery as attractive and more formidable than that of the general. If I had not the fear of God and the fate of the unfortunate Twiss before my eyes, I would tell you, my dear ladies, that no situation was better calculated to prove how much he has calumniated your legs.

I was present at the opening of the new bason, the importance of such a work interested me very much in the pomp of the ceremony. The viceroy's yacht was the first that passed the sluices, whilst a volley of great guns was fired; and when it got into the bason, he created the person a knight, who had completed, at his expence, this national work; it completes, on this side, the junction between the canals and the ocean. The viceroy then sailed from one end to the other in an elegant boat,

whilst the people continually applauded. The enthusiasm of such an immense crowd made me apprehend lest many should fall into the water, or, what I should have liked still less, thrown me into it; in every country a man is easily electrified by the joy of the publick, especially when it is so well founded as on this occasion.

Party rage either political or religious, at least in favour of the house of Stuart, is very much diminished, and I hope that before ten years it will totally disappear. The catholick religion has more followers than the established, which is in fact the religion of the rich. All the lower class of people in Ireland, except in the north, are catholics; they observe lent and fast-days with a degree of regularity that terrifies a man who wishes to fast in the Scotch fashion only. Holy saturday, by way of rejoicing, some butchers carry a herring covered with ribbands through the streets, and whip it with rods, at every open place, while a crowd of children follow crying, "Baye, baye, baye;" like sheep.

The

The common people call an English shilling a hog, and a six-pence, a pig, as the English shilling is worth a penny more than the Irish; they wanted to distinguish both, and they called the former after the most common and most useful animal in Ireland. The Irish have a deal of friendship for the pig, he lives as a companion with the country-people, and when nurses wish to caress their children, they call them "My little pig," or, "piggy."

There is a celebrated university at Dublin; the professors' places are really too rich, although they don't think so: there are many of them well informed and very amiable. Before the reformation it was probably necessary for them to become priests before they could be professors, and as such they could not marry. From an old maid's whim, Queen Elizabeth has also made it a necessary qualification, in the new charter she granted. Although almost all the professors are married, they appear to obey the law, for their wives do not take their husband's names.

There

There is a handsome library in the college, where there are many books and scarce manuscripts, particularly in the Irish language: there is also a cabinet of natural history and anatomy; in the latter is the skeleton of a man, all whose joints and a part of the flesh were ossified; he lived some time in this state, 'till at last the more important organs were attacked.

They drink much less in Dublin and in every part of Ireland than I had imagined: generally in the chief houses, an hour or even half an hour after the departure of the ladies the man of the house pushes his glass to the middle of the table and gets up; however I do not mean to deny that there are drinking parties, where they sacrifice very liberally to Bacchus: I saw a droll instance of this: one evening, as I was going home, a man who was very drunk pushed up against another, who not stirring from the place, the drunken man fell down; he soon got up however, and seizing his antagonist by the collar, asked him for his address, and wanted him to fight

fight right or wrong: this the other declined. After a warm altercation, well said the first, "I perceive you are not a gentleman, and consequently can't fight like one, well! I'll box * you for six-pence." The other appeared to consent to this, but as, in order to box, he must take off his clothes, he was obliged to let go his hold, and his antagonist took this opportunity of slipping into the crowd unperceived. When the drunken man had stripped he looked every where for his antagonist, and not perceiving him began to cry out "Where is the lousy rascal, where is &c."—And he went about to every person asking them "Are you not the lousy rascal?" However when his passion cooled, nobody thinking it incumbent to answer so impertinent a question, he

* To box means to fight with your fists, in order to do it according to rule, you must lay a wager, otherwise you are answerable for the consequences: but if you bet any thing, you may safely knock out your antagonist's eyes, or break his jaw.

NOTE OF THE AUTHOR.

he went to dress himself, but his shirt had disappeared.*

After

* "Drinking," says a modern author, "is the vice of men whose lives are vicissitudes of toil and care, of danger and security. It is the vice of sailors, soldiers, and huntsmen: of those who exercise boisterous occupations or dangerous amusements.

It is also the vice of the lower class of people in every country where they possess no property, or where the possession of it is insecure. No people in the world drink more than the Russians and Polish boors. This cannot be entirely referred to climate, for, though the Italians and Spaniards are abstemious, the Turks, to whom wine is prohibited by their religion, have recourse to opium, to procure a temporary oblivion of existence. A striking instance of the influence of property in this respect is mentioned by Cox, in his travels through Poland. A Polish nobleman, Zamoiski, enfranchised six villages in 1760. While the peasants were in a state of servitude, Zamoiski was occasionally obliged to pay fines for disorders committed by them, for in a state of drunkenness, they would attack and sometimes kill passengers: since their freedom he has seldom received any complaints of this kind against them.

NOTE OF THE TRANSLATOR.

After having seen every thing curious, and prepared every thing that could contribute to the safety or agreeableness of my journey, I began to think of setting out. Mr. Burton Conyngham was kind enough to procure me a passport from the Lord Lieutenant, and to give me several letters for his country friends: he begged of me also to write to him from time to time, and to begin my rambles from his house in the county of Wicklow. The commander in chief General Cunningham gave me a general letter of recommendation, and I fixed on the 25th of May, for the day of my departure.

I intended to set out in the morning, but I was invited to dine with a charming family: a good dinner and pretty women are allurements I have never been able to resist.

CHAP. III.



LAGENIA, OR LEINSTER.

THE MINE OF GOLD.....WICKLOW...;
WEXFORD.

HAVING formed my plan, I took my stick in my hand, put my baggage in my pockets, and gaily began my journey: it was lucky I had this stick, for otherwise a son of St. Patrick, would have fractured his skull on the pavement.

As I walked along the flags, I perceived a young boy amusing himself by leaping near the iron rails, that are before the houses: his foot was caught by the point of one of them. As he leaped with great force, he would not have been able to recover himself, and his head would have been dashed against the pavement; by a good blow of the stick I extricated his foot before his leap was finished, and he fell on his
his

his legs, I then examined the wound, his foot was almost pierced through; I got him carried to an apothecary's, and when his wound was dressed, "Don't be such a fool another time," said I, putting a shilling into his hand. My journey, thought I, must be useful for it is scarcely begun and I have already saved a man's life! I considered this a good omen and went on.

I stopped at a house to ask the way from a man on horseback who was chatting at the door. After I had gone on about a mile this man overtook me, we entered into conversation, and after some time, "If," said he, "you choose to get up behind me you are welcome, as we are going to the same place; I am an old soldier." "I am a young one," said I, "and much obliged to you." I got up behind him in a moment; we began to talk of our campaigns, and I was sorry to part this honest fellow, of whom I know nothing, but that I believe he is quarter-master at Dublin.

I had neither calculated the distance nor the time properly when I left Dublin, eight miles, said I, are nothing, but eight Irish miles are no trifle; it was eleven o'clock when I arrived at the house where I intended to stop: the doors were bolted, and an additional misfortune was that the person who invited me was not at home, there was no inn nearer than four miles, and I should return towards Dublin: I would rather go ten miles forward than turn back four, so I pushed on: about half past twelve I got into a village, every soul was asleep; at last I perceived light in a cabin, it was inhabited by poor workmen who returned from the city; I asked for hospitality, and they offered me every thing that was in the house; I passed the night on a stool with my back leaning against the wall. This was not very pleasant for my first day's journey, but I was obliged to have patience, and there was no necessity of awaking me in the morning.

About day-break all the animals, who slept higgledy-piggledy with their masters,
soon

soon informed me that the sun was risen: I got out of this wretched retreat of indigence! How salutary such a lesson would have been to me had I been bred in affluence! I would recommend to parents to oblige their children to pass some nights in this manner; they would profit more by it, than by whole years spent at school. In order to pity the poor and to be desirous of serving them, we must become acquainted with their situation: the rich, who hear them spoken of only with contempt, turn aside from them with horror.

About four in the morning I went to the camp at Bray, and examined at my leisure the regularity and elegance of the barracks: except some centinels, nobody was awake; I was scandalized at finding the soldiers fast asleep, and at being awake myself at so early an hour: after rambling a good deal in the neighbourhood, I was fatigued too, I sat down at the foot of a tree and fell asleep. About seven I felt something stir in my pocket, and a voice bawled out: "Are you dead sir?" Yes,

said I, and the apparition, which must have been the devil himself or some old witch belonging to the camp, ran like lightening.

I left my bed without much reluctance, and having enquired for Mr. Conyngham's house, I was told it was three miles off. I got at last to Roche's-Town, but it was only half after eight; it was with difficulty I could speak to any body, and I was told the man of the house was sick and that they did not breakfast 'till eleven; I was once more obliged to have patience. A person does not know the value of a good breakfast, when he lies a-bed all the morning, but after such a night as I spent and so light a supper, it is a quite different thing.

Mr. B. Conyngham was surrounded by his family and a battalion of physicians, surgeons and apothecaries: I was not even permitted to speak to him: this seemed very odd for a simple cold, but I was not at all uneasy: when a rich man, thought I, hurts his finger, those who are about him look melancholy, and if he catches cold
the

the faculty are called in, they very gravely make him swallow their pills, in order to acquire some credit, and to fill their purses. I was mistaken for his sickness proved fatal.

I was under the necessity of continuing my journey; passing over the wild mountains which seem to cover Dublin, I arrived, after walking three or four hours, at Enniscorthy^{Kerry}, where I was kindly received by Mr. Walker, who has made profound researches into the antiquities of Ireland. This little town belongs to Lord Powercourt: his park and house are some of the most curious places near Dublin: it is in this park the Dargle runs, in the valley called after it, and of which the inhabitants are justly vain: in this park is to be seen also the cascade of Powercourt, which strangers come to visit from a great distance. The mass of water is not very considerable, but the cascade is very high and resembles in whiteness an old man's hair agitated by the wind: the comparison is rather original, but it may pass. The valley into which this river falls is undoubtedly

edly the most romantic and the best wooded in Ireland: this little river runs five or six miles through a very fine country.

The inn-keeper of Eniskerry is the representative of the O'Tooles, to whom this fine country belonged, and whose property was confiscated for not submitting to the English yoke. He has got the coat of arms of the new proprietors on his sign.

If the Emigrants ever return to France without recovering their property, it won't be on my own estate at least that I'll turn inn-keeper.

On a hill near the town may be seen one of these curious cavities, which nature has dug in many parts of the mountains of this country: the road passes through them, which is right because these chasms are the only places where people can pass, without climbing to the top.

Returning towards the east, I accosted a countryman who explained to me several particulars

particulars relative to the country with a deal of good sense: the inhabitants of the county of Wicklow are in general very intelligent, and the country is very well tilled, particularly near the sea-coast; the mountains, which are not very high, and the number of rich houses add to the beauty of the prospect.

I soon got to Olly-Brook, where I was received by Lord Molesworth, to whose goodness I had been already indebted at Dublin. The laurel-tree, the arbutus, the holly-oak, and even the myrtle are common enough in this country, though fruit is scarce; the reason is that heat is requisite to ripen fruit, but these green trees have more need of a temperate climate in winter.

It was here that Robert Adair, so celebrated in song both in Ireland and Scotland, lived. I have seen his picture, he was the ancestor of Lord Molesworth, and of Sir Robert Hodson, to whom Olly-Brook belongs. I heard the following story about him.

him. A Scotchman, undoubtedly a toper of the first class, having heard of the prowess of Robert Adair, came from Scotland for the purpose of challenging him to drink: the moment he landed in Dublin, he asked every body in his jargon, *Ken ye one Robert Adair?* 'till at last he found him out. He went to his house, asked to speak with him and told him his business: Robert Adair was then at table, and offered to decide the matter on the spot, the Scotchman would not agree to this, but told him every thing was ready at the inn at Bray.

Our two champions went to the field of battle, but after ten bottles were drank the Scotchman fell under the table: on this Robert Adair rang the bell, asked for the eleventh bottle, and in presence of the waiters got astride on the poor Scotchman; finished the bottle in a single draught, and began to huzza with all his might.

When the poor Scotchman recovered from his debauch, he returned to town:
his

his adventure made a noise, and the little boys ran after him crying, *Ken ye one Robert Adair?* to which he answered, *I ken the dil.*

This might have happened in former times, but as I am an impartial author and would wish to do justice to every one, I am convinced if the battle happened at present, the Scotchman would gain the victory provided I was not one of the combatants, 'tis all I ask.

Following the windings of a romantic valley bordered by steep hills, mostly covered with trees from the bottom to the top, I arrived at Mr. Latouche's at Belview. Mrs. Latouche has a school, of which she is the mistress, and where she maintains twenty four young scholars.—When they arrive at maturity she gives them a dowry and marries them to honest labourers. This is one of the most noble and rational amusements I ever saw people of fortune occupied with. Nothing would sooner improve a country than a succession
of

of virtuous young women accustomed to labour, industry, and consequently to honesty.

I walked about the neighbourhood, as usual, entered the cottages of the peasants and chatted with them: by this means we have often an opportunity of seeing how ill-founded a reputation for benevolence is, but what a pleasure to find it to be true! Several houses were clean and well furnished, industry introduced comfort; those peasants, who have retained the simplicity of their manners, thank Providence for having once at least bestowed wealth so deservedly. In the parish-church is a superb monument of white marble, erected in honour of David Latouche by his three sons. David came from France, at the time of the repeal of the edict of Nantes, and by persevering industry during forty years, acquired a considerable fortune: although a banker, he was humane and charitable: it is said of him that towards the decline of life he never went out, without having his pock-

ets

ets full of shillings which he gave to the poor; when somebody remarked to him that if he gave money to all those who asked it, he would bestow it on several unworthy objects: "Yes," said he, "but if "it is well bestowed to one in ten, that's "sufficient." The church in which this monument stands was built by him: over the door is inscribed, *Of thy own, oh my God, do I give unto thee.*

It was at Belview I learned the melancholy news of Mr. B. Conyngham's death! Although this was the twelfth day of my journey, and that I had really travelled a good deal, I was only seventeen miles from Dublin; I was some time puzzled about what I ought to do, for I clearly perceived that on account of this misfortune I would be liable to a deal of trouble and fatigue without any advantage, at least for myself; at length, however, after many reflections, the utility which I supposed would result from the execution of my project, made me overlook any personal consideration; I resolved to push on boldly
and

and to commit the rest to Providence. I even resolved to present the letters which the deceased had given me, though I should be looked on as a courier from the other world.

I paid my respects to the oldest and largest arbutus tree, not only in Ireland, but even superior to any in the mountains of Nice and Provence. It is to be seen in the charming garden of Mount-Kennedy: the trunk of the tree is at least three feet in diameter; the wind and age have inclined it to one side, and in this situation it has taken root, and thrown out branches of an extraordinary size, so that this tree alone forms a wood of arbutus trees.

From thence I went to the barren mountains of the county Wicklow, and got to Loughilla one of Mr. Peter Latouche's seats, which a person is surprized to find in so wild a place; the next house is six miles off; there are even no cabins but at a great distance: this is a spot of fertile ground near a pretty lake, and as
distinct

distinct from the rest of the county as an island is from the water by which it is surrounded. Following the course of the stream which flows from the lake, I went to Glandalough, which signifies the valley of the two lakes. 'Tis remarkable that every ancient name in this county has a peculiar signification; in this case the meaning is plain, for the two lakes join at the very place, which is also called the seven churches.

In this desert place are the most ancient monuments of the devotion of former ages, which may be traced to the first ages of christianity. St. Kevan, or Cavan, founded a monastery here in the third or fourth century of the christian era, probably on the ruins of some building of the Druids, who chose the most remote places for the celebration of their religious ceremonies. It was a long time a bishopric, but is now joined to that of Dublin. The ruins of seven churches, and of one of those round towers so common in Ireland, and the origin of which is so little known, may be seen

here. All these towers are built after the same model: they have all a door fifteen or twenty feet high, generally towards the east, some narrow windows and not the smallest vestige of a staircase inside, except some step-stones, which might have been placed to support some floors, through which there must have been trap-doors to get from one to the other by means of a ladder; these towers are generally at some distance from a church, and in a remote situation. The one at Brechin, near Montrose in Scotland, is precisely of the same kind. I read some time since, in an account of a voyage to the north of Asia, of similar towers. The traveller was not, I presume, acquainted with Ireland: he had escaped from Siberia, where he had been forced to remain many years; he mentions having seen many of these towers in that part of Tartary, which lies to the north east of the Caspian sea: he gives an engraving of one of them, with the ruins near it, "Which were," he says, "a house of prayer, near which these towers are always situated." Were it not for the dress

dress and appearance of the people whom he painted at the foot of it, a person would suppose it to be a view of Irish ruins.— However this may be, the Irish have the greatest veneration for the ruins of Glendalough, they come there from a great way off to do penance for their sins, and make a pilgrimage on the anniversary of the saint, which falls on the third of June: they afterwards dance and amuse themselves 'till nightfall.

In this holy retreat is a remedy for every complaint! If you have a pain in your arm, you have only to put it through a hole made in the stone for this purpose: there is also a place where you may rub your back, and another where you may rub your head; if you can put your arms round a pillar in the middle of the graveyard, you may rely on the fidelity of your wife. The saint's bed is a hole about six feet long dug in the rock; it possesses a remarkable virtue; a person can get to it only by sliding down the steep side of the mountain, just above the lake: whoever has

courage enough to go there in this manner, is sure never to die in child-bed: in hopes of this, a great number of wives and of girls (who expect soon to become so) come to make their rounds. I am inclined to believe it is on this account they bring so many children into the world, and with so little labour; all this seemed quite applicable to me on the commencement of my journey; I put my arm through the hole; rubbed my head against one stone, my back against another, and thus took in a cargo of health against the journey. I even tried to embrace the pillar, but shall not tell whether I succeeded: with respect to the saint's bed, as there was no great danger I should die of the accident it so effectually prevents, I did not trouble myself about it.

Rathdrum is a little town at some distance from this celebrated place; it is very thriving and manufactures a deal of flannel; the country people appear to be industrious and more comfortable than elsewhere. The first monday of every month
there's

there's a fair, where I have been assured that upwards of four thousand pounds worth of flannels are sold. Lord (I forget his name) has built a ware-house to contain them at his own expence. 'Tis he has encouraged this new manufacture, it does him a deal of honour, and will be highly beneficial to his tenantry.

The peasants are very curious to know what o'clock it is: women and children come out of the cabins every moment, to ask passengers what the hour is, perhaps for the pleasure of seeing a watch, or of entering into conversation. In the neighbourhood is a valuable copper-mine: the company was obliged to lay out £60,000, before they got any return: there are now near three hundred workmen employed in it. The water that flows out of the mine is conveyed over iron plates, made for the purpose: it dissolves a portion of them, and the copper it contains is precipitated on them. They use an expedient tolerably ingenious to renew the air at the bottom of the mine: they convey a little stream

over some bushes placed at the opening; the water falls in drops and forms a current of air.

The gold-mine, which made such a noise about the end of 1795, is six or seven miles distance across the mountains: I was often obliged to ask the way, and my demand excited the curiosity of the peasants; they quitted their work before they answered me, asked me some question in my turn, wanted to know if the mine would be soon worked, if government had sent me there and a thousand things of the same nature, they then began to tell me of a person who sent his children there a Sunday morning after it had rained, and that they brought back gold to the value of twenty guineas. In such cases the persons who find any are remembered, and those who lose their time and sometimes their life in a fruitless search, are forgotten.— There were many workmen who spent whole days and nights labouring, without finding any thing that could repay their trouble, and at last, exhausted by fatigue, returned

returned to their family the third or fourth day, and died almost instantly.

There was a river, tolerably rapid, on my way, which I must ford over or go a round of four or five miles: it was rather warm, and I took the opportunity of bathing; a country-man decently dressed, who was chatting with me about the gold-mine, in order to have the pleasure of talking about it sometime longer, followed my example and even carried my clothes to the other side.

The place where the peasants have dug for gold is at the foot of a pretty steep mountain (called Cruachan) at the source of a stream or rather of a torrent. It never occurred to them to look for it at the side of the mountain, from whence the gold in the stream evidently proceeded.

This torrent is called the golden stream in Irish, and lately in English the poor man's stream; this would render it probable that they formerly found gold there. I extract the following passage from Ge-

neral Vallancey's researches on Irish antiquities, printed twenty years before the discovery of the gold-mine of Wicklow.

“ The ancient history of Ireland mentions that this island abounded in gold, (afosd or aphosd) and there was a place for melting this precious metal called aphost, on the river Laiphi, where the gold was bearvain, or refined: that there were two kinds of gold, one yellow or buidh, the other white or ban, that the name of the artist who first purified and manufactured this metal was Inachadan. The passage is written in this manner in the *Liber lacanus*, written in the reign of king Tighearnmas. This prince civilized his subjects; he introduced the method of dying stuff blue, green, or purple; the method of purifying gold is ascribed to him: *Inachadan ainm an cearda ro bearbh an d'or agus i foardhith, (no aphosd) irrthir Laiphi ro bearbhan*: that is, the name of the person who purified gold was Inachadan, and this was done at foarvi (or aphosd) on the eastern coast of the Laiphi, or the Lifley.”

What is more remarkable is that the learned General, who did not believe that gold was ever found in Ireland, quotes this passage to prove the received tradition of the Scythian colony that was transported to Ireland; from this he draws the following conclusion: "Here we have the word "*aphosd* for gold, a word unknown to all the Celtic nations. We know that Ireland never produced any gold, consequently this is a foreign word: but we know that the Scythians inhabited the banks of the *Phasis*, in Colchis, where there is plenty of this precious metal." He then gives us to understand that it was a corrupt tradition of the Scythian colony, that ascribed to a country where it never had been found, a substance that abounded in the place they had quitted.

The Liffy rises four or five miles from the place where gold has been found, and runs near the eastern side of it, 'till within two or three miles of the other side of mount Croghan, it afterwards almost surrounds the county Kildare, and falls into the

the sea at Dublin. These circumstances should induce us to give some degree of credit to the ancient manuscripts, particularly as the jewels and military ornaments found in the bogs, and other places where battles were fought, * appear to be made of gold of the same quality as that which has been found at the foot of Mount Croghan or Cruachan.

I had a letter from Mr. B. Conyngham for the officer of his regiment, who commanded the troops stationed to guard the mine, and to prevent the peasants from working there. He walked with me about
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* In the bog near Cullen swords of brass were found, perfectly resembling those supposed to have been used by the Carthaginians.

The master of the mint at London after comparing these brass-swords with those Sir W. Hamilton dug up some years ago on the plain of Cannæ, declared that the resemblance was so great, both with respect to the quality of the metal, and the shape of the swords, that he was of opinion they had been melted in the same furnace, and cast in the same mould.

the place, it is inconceivable what a number of holes avarice has made them dig in this wonderful stream: some persons assured me they saw four thousand men working there together; in every hole something was found, though not by the workmen, but by the women and children, who had nothing else to do but to examine.

The sum total of what was found there may amount to three or four thousand pounds; the largest piece of gold weighed twenty-two ounces, and was worth eighty guineas: it appears that the gold was in a state of fusion, and was carried down the mountain by the current, together with the mud, stones and trees that are found in the stream: this piece of twenty-two ounces was found fixed to a stone, as if it had been melted on it, and the labourer who found it was obliged to get it off with a hammer. Government has since prohibited any person from working there, and if it had not done so all the vagabonds of the three kingdoms, and perhaps some from the continent would have assembled there, and the majority

majority being deceived in their expectations, would have probably plundered the neighbouring houses to procure subsistence. There is always a guard of twenty or thirty men in a little village at some distance, and a centinel on the spot to prevent people from searching for gold.

It remains to inquire whether it would be advantageous or not, to search for gold in this mine.

Government can't always have a guard here, and 'tis certain the moment the guard goes away, the peasants will return to work, though it were a thousand years hence. The profit government would derive from working it would be very trifling, for I am convinced it would be much inferior to the expence, except they employed slaves in this work, as they do in Peru, on whom they might exercise the most refined cruelty; without this every time a labourer stooped he would be suspected of stealing, and the facility with which he might do so would encourage him. Something however

ever must be done, in order not to leave such a temptation to misery, and to prevent the confusion which may be the consequence.

After satisfying my curiosity, I made a frugal repast in the neighbourhood on potatoes and water; then returning towards the east, I was kindly received by Mr. Baily at Arklow, where he is rector: he had the goodness to give me the following observations on the piece of gold I spoke of and on the place in general.*

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I

The

* The gold is found in marshy spots by the side of a small stream in a gravelly stratum, and in the clefts of the rock which lies beneath, of all forms and sizes, from the above down to the smallest perceptible pieces, bearing all the appearance of having been in a state of fusion.—Also when the mud and gravel are carefully washed, they afford a considerable quantity of gold dust.

The secret of the mine was discovered about eleven or twelve years ago, by some people in the neighbourhood who have since occasionally collected considerable quantities.—But it was not publicly known until

The country near the little town of Arklow is very fine, and intersected by woods, mountains, plains, and vallies. The company who own the copper-mines intend to make the river navigable to near Rathdrum: this might be very useful, but the expence would be so considerable, that except government assist them, I fear they won't venture to undertake it: besides the port of Arklow is so bad, and the coast so shoaly, that the vessels must remain about a mile off, and put out to sea on the slightest appearance of bad weather.

I went

until the beginning of September 1795, from that time several hundreds, sometimes thousands of the country people, have been daily employed in the search.—It is computed that gold to the value of several thousand pounds has been collected. On the 14th of October, two companies of the Kildare Militia, marched into Arklow, and on the following day, proceeded to guard the mine, on the part of his majesty.

N. B. The piece above-mentioned is the property of eight poor labourers, who agreed to join shares in the search.

I went on though it rained, without any other shelter than a parapluie, which I got in Dublin, and which appeared very odd to the inhabitants of the villages where I passed : I stopped a short time at Fernes, to examine an old tower near the ruins of the cathedral and of the old castle, and the palace of the bishop, which is larger than the capital of his diocese. I accosted a man who seemed a good kind of a soul: I asked him several questions, but instead of answering he looked at me from head to foot, and then asked me if I was born in a remote corner of the kingdom? As I am always ready for such questions, I smiled and answered in Scotch; "*I dinna ken, I dinna mind,*" he then asked me where I came from, and whither I was going? "I come from hence," said I, pointing to the north, "and I am going there," pointing to the south. "I know by your language" said he, then tipping me on the shoulder, "you are a d——d cunning Scotchman, you are come to this country to make your fortune; well, well, we shall soon hear of you, for you are a

“ d——d lucky set ! ”——“ *Ne’er fash
“ mon,*” said I to him with a smile, I then
inquired my way, which he shewed me
very obligingly.

’Tis a little stratagem I often made use
of in my travels, and it has succeeded ad-
mirably. The natives could easily per-
ceive me to be a stranger, without being
certain from what place I came, but when
I spoke some words of broad Scotch, they
took me for a Scotchman.

The Irish are accustomed to see people
of every rank come from Scotland, and
make considerable fortunes in a few years ;
it is only among foreigners that the Scotch
character is seen in its true light. If one
has made his fortune, it is sufficient to
draw a number of his countrymen to the
place ; they all get under his protection
and he advances and supports them with
his credit : the consequence is, there are
few large cities in Europe, where you may
not be sure of meeting some in a very opu-
lent situation, and others attracted by their
successes.

success. This undoubtedly does them honour, and a stranger who saw them in Scotland only, would be at a loss to conceive how they can be so attached to one another in a foreign country.

There is something terrible in the rain of this country, for it pierces to your very bones, and makes you shiver with cold in the middle of summer, but luckily the wind that almost always succeeds it, soon dries you. This was exactly my case before I arrived at Enniscorthy, after being all day as wet as if I had been drawn through the river. This town is pretty large and has some manufactures, but I delayed only to refresh myself after my journey, and went three miles farther to Mr. Alcock's at Wilton, whose hospitality made me forget my fatigue. I found an old man there, who was going from house to house with a plan for watering meadows; he knew how to make them pay a guinea a day, besides entertaining him and his horses: he said he had been secretary to Pope Ganganeli.... Except a person assumes some appearances

of quackery, he won't succeed in these countries. There was formerly a large town near Wilton: even in the time of Queen Elizabeth the soldiers preferred going there to Enniscorthy, which was then but a village; the plough at present passes over the ruins of the houses, of which it is difficult to perceive the traces. . . . France is not the only country that has had a La Vendée.

I went from thence to Wexford which, without exaggeration, is one of the ugliest and dirtiest cities in Ireland. The violent exercise I had taken for some days before, and to which I had been a long time unaccustomed, obliged me to remain there a week, slightly ill of a fever, and as an additional misfortune, most of my letters were from Mr. B. C——. I received however some attention there. Wexford is situated on a large bay, which is almost dry when the tide is out: they might gain seven or eight thousand acres of ground by drying it, which would procure the advantages of making it a good port and of enlarging the
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the bed of the river ; the longest bridge that ever joined two pieces of land may be seen at Wexford ; it took me seven minutes to go from one end of it to the other : I suppose from this it may be about a third of an Irish mile in length. It is the favourite walk of the belles of this place ; there are seats for them to sit down on fundays, and music which attracts a great number of people, and makes it very pleasant. Fortunes are better divided in the neighbourhood of this town than elsewhere ; none of these monstrous whales, that consume the produce of an entire province, are to be seen ; there are many snug people, but none of considerable fortune ; most of the people are descendants of Cromwell's soldiers, but as they were numerous, the portion of land each got was small.

It was in the neighbourhood of this city that Strongbow landed with the troops he brought to the assistance of Mc. Dermot, king of Leinster, who had been dethroned ; Henry the second's pretext for the invasion of
of

of Ireland some years afterwards is well known; he made the kings and princes of the island pay him homage: the English, however, remained within the limits agreed on upwards of three hundred years, and did not subdue the country entirely 'till the time of Queen Elizabeth. The inhabitants of the barony of Forth, near Wexford, are descended from the followers of Strongbow, they have never mixed with the native Irish; they speak an odd jargon which resembles Flemish more than modern English. Their customs are peculiar to themselves, and they intermarry with each other. Their houses are cleaner and more comfortable than those of the other inhabitants, they are also cleaner in their persons, and have every appearance of being a different race.

In July 1793 the White-boys were totally defeated here, and never appeared since. As they have been much spoken of, I shall give some account of their origin. In every country the peasant pays tithes unwillingly: they are universally considered

considered as a heavy tax, and one that impedes cultivation, for the labourer must pay it out of the produce of his industry. It appears more unjust in Ireland than elsewhere, for the majority of the people being catholics, it seems very oppressive to them to pay a minister who is often the only protestant in his parish, and who levies his dues very rigorously. Besides the usual tithe, he is entitled, in almost every part of Ireland, to the tenth part of the milk, of the eggs and of the vegetables; it is easy to perceive that this is very distressing, when the minister requires them in kind, particularly as these poor wretches must contribute to the support of their own priests: they have often remonstrated on this subject, but were not attended to; nor could they indeed be redressed without destroying the established church.* From
remon-

* Tithes discourage agriculture, as they are a tax upon the rent of land, the stock, the labour, and profits of the husband-man. This is the great and fundamental objection to the present system of supporting
ing

remonstrances the peasants began to threaten, and from threats proceeded to insurrection; they assembled in large bodies at night in several parts of Ireland, and in order

ing the clergy. But there are other evils of an inferior nature, which deserve consideration, as the inequality in their assessment, and the oppressive manner in which they are collected. The industrious and active farmer loudly complains, that the idle and lazy grazier bears no proportion of the burden, though the tendency of the first be to increase the articles of life and the labour and population of a nation: and of the latter to oppose an insuperable bar to every kind of productive improvement. This destructive partiality has been felt so severely by the cultivators of the ground in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary, that I have been assured by a very intelligent person, who has lately turned his attention to agriculture in one of these counties, that many of the farmers are determined to resume the grazing system, as being less troublesome and more profitable.

With regard to the extravagance in the expence of collecting this tax, we have only to look to the great fortunes which have been every where accumulated by tithe-farmers, who frequently receive the full amount of the rector's revenue for collecting it.

There

order to distinguish each other put their shirts over their clothes, hence they have been called white-boys: in this manner they scoured the country, breaking the ministers

There are sometimes accidental changes in the price of provisions which may render tithes much heavier one year than another. Thus in the year 1796, the tithe notes were passed in the month of August or September, when grain was remarkably high; but in a short time it fell to less than half the price it bore at passing the notes. Hence the farmer found himself indebted in one-fifth of his labour, profit, and stock, instead of one tenth, which was the just due of the rector. This was so glaring a grievance, that many of the clergy of themselves lowered their demands, according to the fall in the price of grain.

If ever tithes should again become a subject of legislative discussion, we think the best information would be derived from consulting the middling resident farmers in each county, as they are not above feeling the grievance, and are intelligent enough to distinguish the cause of it. We have heard some of those complain that Mr. Grattan, when he brought forward this subject in the house of commons, did not seem to possess the minute information which was necessary, to render any changes in the system extensively beneficial.

Our

ministers doors, and if they could catch their cattle, cutting off their ears. They did not insult any person; a traveller might pass through them safely. For these misdeameanors

Our author is wrong in asserting that the clergy receive the tithe in kind. On the contrary, the white-boys constantly begin by posting notices cautioning the farmers not to purchase their tithe, but to leave it in the field to be carried away or not as the rector may think fit. We are of opinion, contrary to the assertion of the author, that a substitute for tithes may be easily found less oppressive to the people, and more satisfactory to the clergy, without endangering the established religion. Of this nature is a land-tax which appears to us to possess many advantages. If some such measures are adopted we may at length expect to see a final stop put to those disgraceful combinations, which have so long agitated this unfortunate country, and have so often threatened the extinction of society.

It has been frequently asserted that landlords alone, and not tenants, would profit by an abolition of tithes. But this objection has been often refuted, particularly in a late well written pamphlet on this subject. Landlords, says the author, usually lease their ground at a certain rent, for twenty-one years, or a certain term; the tithe impropiator, on the

contrary,

demeanours the magistrates arested a score of them and put them in prison. Their companions requested they should be set at liberty, but in vain. They then threa-

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tened

contrary, demands annually a tenth in proportion to the increased production—or, in plainer terms, if potatoes were produced one year and pine-apples the next; the right to, and consequently the demand for tithes would be increased accordingly. Thus circumstanced, it must be admitted that tithe is a demand vexatious from this uncertainty; burthensome to farmers—a tax upon that industry which feeds mankind—and demonstrably operating as a bounty on pasturage, to the prejudice of agriculture.

If a farmer were to acquire twenty shillings in the produce of a farm grazed with sheep, the fleece which may be estimated at a fourth part, or five shillings, would be alone subjected to tithe; and sixpence would be all he would pay to the improprator. But if he were to get twenty shillings by the production of corn, he would be liable to a tithe of two shillings. Hence it is evident that he would pay four times as much in the latter case as in the former.—Therefore tithe operates as a bounty upon pasture, and consequently as a discouragement to and subtraction from agriculture.

TRANSLATOR.

tened to deliver them by force, and advanced to the city to the number of three thousand: there were scarce any troops in Wexford: they were able to muster only about a hundred and fifty soldiers, who were sent out to meet them. In going to Wexford, the white-boys took an officer prisoner, and sent word to the mayor that their prisoner would answer with his head for the safety of their companions. This caused a deal of uneasiness at Wexford: they had some cause to apprehend the insurgents would put their threats in execution. The major of the place advanced, rather imprudently, to some distance from his men, and after some altercation he received a blow of a scythe, which killed him on the spot. When the troops saw this, they fired, and in two or three minutes the whole body was dispersed and put to flight, after leaving two or three hundred dead on the field of battle. Some of the wretches who were wounded, apprehensive of the fate they would meet with if taken, fled to the corn-fields, where they died in agony.

Since

Since this battle they have not been heard of, and the country has been quiet : this revolt may give us an idea of the French revolution ; suppose that when the three thousand men came near the town, the prisoners had been delivered, which might be justified by their having only a hundred and fifty soldiers to oppose them, is it not evident that they would make fresh demands, and would at last command obedience ? If government then left them quiet three weeks, or negociated with them, instead of three thousand, they would increase to thirty thousand, and would at length destroy the government, from which they had at first requested a favour.

I found a French family established five or six years here : a vessel sailed from Brittany in 1791, and put into Wexford from stress of weather, there were upwards of thirty persons on board, most of whom soon quitted this town ; there remained at Wexford only a lady with her three daughters and a male relation, rather advanced in years, who had a daughter that was mar-

ried; at the end of two years, when they had spent all they had, the inhabitants made a subscription for them, which enabled them, though with difficulty, to subsist the three following years, one of the young ladies married a young man in the town, who seems to be in striving circumstances.

I would not have been so diffuse on this subject, if the elderly man had not been the object of an act of gratitude, which does honour to humanity. Many English prisoners confined in a small town in Brittany, were perishing with hunger and misery, during the tyranny of Roberspiere. An elderly lady pitying their situation, resolved to assist them at the risk of her life, and even gave them money to enable them to escape. They inquired if there was any thing in their power, by which, they could testify their gratitude? I have a relation at Wexford, said she, he is an Emigrant: this may give you an idea of his situation; send him this note, and if you can serve him you will oblige me.

When

When they got home they inquired if such a person was at Wexford; soon after the elderly man received a very polite letter from a merchant of the name of Mc. Gibbon, acknowledging the obligations he was under to his relation in Brittany, and begging him to receive a bank-note for twenty guineas as a trifling mark of his gratitude: he received another letter also, which I saw, from an English officer named Yescombe, who gave him an annual pension of £24 'till he should return to France, and sent him the first quarter in advance. At the recital of such acts a man's heart dilates, and one finds a pleasure in discovering a grateful and benevolent fellow-creature without the declamation of those haranguers, who are content with fine speeches, which often make more noise than the act itself.

I have met with so many of these gentlemen, and have been so often duped by them, that I am almost tempted to treat with ridicule whoever makes me a general offer of friendship. One day a person of

this kind made me offers of service, to which I answered with a frigid politeness; "But," said he, "you don't appear to believe what I say?" After some hesitation, "Why," "really," said I, "I don't believe a word of it." "You don't believe it," said he. "If," said I, "you do me the services you promise, I shall be grateful for them, but if, like many others, you forget me the moment I am out of sight, give me leave not to be surprised, and not to be vexed by it."

Whilst I was at Wexford a republican privateer had the impudence to come to the harbour's mouth, and levy contributions on all the ships that sailed out; she afterwards contrived to escape: I followed her example, and got to Gulph-Bridge, about twelve miles off, to the house of an honest, rich quaker, where I arrived wet and dirty: but these good people received me kindly. They made out a great coat for me, with which I sat down at table, it would cover three like me, one of the quakers, remarking its vast extent, cut off
half

half of the piece of roast-beef and put it on my plate saying, "Friend thou ought "to fill thy belly." I perceived they did not say grace either before or after dinner, but the good woman remained some moments with her eyes fixed on her plate, then fetched a deep sigh and told me, "We believe it is better think without "speaking, than speak without thinking." —In the morning the young lady said, "Friend hast thou slept well?" so gracefully, that if she had said the night before, "Friend, sleep well?" It would probably have hindered me from closing my eyes.

CHAP. IV.

MOMONIA, OR MUNSTER.

WATERFORD. . . . CORK. . . . BANTRY.

I SOON arrived at Passage, a little town where you pass the river below Waterford, which its name sufficiently indicates: I
went

went to see New-Geneva, it consists of an extensive range of barracks, built by the Genevese, to whom government had given an asylum. In one of the frequent revolutions of this Lilliputian state, some artificers conceived such an aversion for the new form of government, that they quitted the republic and fixed themselves near Waterford, where they obtained permission to build a town, to the expence of which the government of this country contributed: they then requested privileges, which would have put them in the same situation they were in on the continent, and have enabled them to go on in the same manner the Irish would have found them very turbulent neighbours; but they might have profited by their industry: while these demands were under consideration, hearing there had been another revolution at Geneva, by which their friends became masters, they immediately abandoned their newly acquired possessions, and returned where they expected an opportunity of signalizing their courage.

Government,

Government, however, thought proper to profit of the houses, and converted them into barracks, the remote situation of which renders them a disagreeable abode for officers.

Directing my course southerly I arrived at Tramore, one of the most remarkable places in Ireland, on account of the idlers, who assemble there to bathe in the sea. During summer it is much frequented by company; the sand is very pleasant for bathers, but not for ships, which are inevitably lost, when driven on it by the wind.

At some distance a little stream falls into the sea, and opens a communication between it and the interior parts of the country; by means of which, when the tide is in, the salt-water overflows three or four thousand acres of a very good soil; I am convinced that by properly laying out two thousand pounds, a dyke and sluice might be constructed, or a flood-gate which the water would shut by its weight, and thus this extensive piece of ground would be gained.

I at

I at length arrived at Waterford tolerably well fatigued. I have already spoken of this city, and might repeat my observations on the dock-yards and buildings on the quay, they are certainly not without foundation: what may appear odd, this is the only subject of blame I have found, for the police is stricter than in most other cities of this kingdom: there is even a degree of patriotism here, in which other places are deficient. The markets are well stocked, and beggars and vagabonds dared not appear in the streets, long before the arrival of Count Rumford, for whom they did me the honour of taking me, when I went to visit the house of industry. I was astonished at seeing the people there running before me, sweeping and brushing; I let them go on however, and praised them highly for their cleanliness; the keeper then led me into his room and shewed me his accounts, which I looked over, he asked me afterwards at what hour I would wish to see the administrators, and said they had orders from government to follow my directions; this added to my surprise, and I requested

I requested to see the order; it was for Count Rumford.

I am sure he would have been as well pleased as I was with the order that reigns in this house;* it is supported partly by subscription and partly by some rent. There are some cells for lunatics, which is a very important object; nothing is more shocking than to see these people walking the streets, even in some of the principal cities of Ireland. The famous Dean Swift was the first who built a house for their reception. It would seem as if he did it
from

* Count Rumford is an Englishman, who has been employed by the Elector Palatine, to inspect the police and destroy mendicity in his dominions: he shewed great talents in the execution of these important projects: in the short space of five or six years, it appears that he succeeded in rendering the condition of a beggar odious to the poor, and of accustoming them to labour, so that he was not obliged to force them to enter into the establishments he had planned, where the poor were fed, clad and lodged by the profits of their industry.

His

from a presentiment of his fate, for towards the decline of life he unfortunately lost his reason, and was shut up in the very house he had built.

The spirit of commerce and industry appears to be greater in Waterford, than in any other city in Ireland, not excepting Cork, to which, however, it is much inferior in point of extent.

The Mayor of Waterford is authorized to have the sword carried before him, even in presence of the Lord Lieutenant. The patent granted by the King requires him to lay it down before his majesty only.

I was

His success in this respect probably induced the Irish government to invite him over: his advice has produced the happiest effects; but as I believe that mendicity in Ireland is not merely the result of poverty, but depends chiefly on other causes, his efforts cannot obtain complete success 'till these are removed. Count Rumford has also laid down a plan to diminish the expence of firing, and to prevent chimnies from smoaking. It chiefly consists in narrowing the passage near the grate, and thus increasing the current of air.

I was once introduced into a large company by a lady of my acquaintance: the gentlemen were over the bottle, and I was at first pleased and afterwards confused at finding myself the only man among about fifty fine women, of whom I knew nobody but the person who had introduced me. I had before admired the part of grand Seignior, but I am tired of it for ever, if there was a handkerchief to be thrown, it would be very different; here as I could not get a single answer but yes or no, and was not asked a single question, I was glad to be posted at a whist-table, where as a stranger I got the honours and won, I believe, twelve or fifteen games.

The day following another lady offered to introduce me into a large company, but they were mostly old women blind, toothless, deaf and scolding; I was obliged to play, lost and got off as soon as I could.

In the evening I was eye-witness, at the theatre, to one of those scenes which occur but too frequently in many cities of

Great Britain; the audience cried out for God save the King, as usual, and obliged the players to sing it in chorus. They shouted out off hats, with a surprising animosity against those who forgot this piece of ceremony. A poor fellow had fallen asleep on the seat during the first act; in vain they shouted off hats, he never stirred; a soldier got up and gave him a violent blow on the head, at the same time snatching off his hat and throwing it into the middle of the pit; the poor devil, who was perhaps disturbed in the middle of a pleasant dream, began to bawl out horribly, to the great amusement of the audience.

I confess this act of violence bore too great a resemblance to some I had witnessed on the continent to please me; why should we intermix politics with publick amusements, and why after playing this favourite air, which I admire as much as any person, should we interrupt the play and destroy the theatrical illusion by obliging all the actors to come out in their stage dresses?

dresser? If these reflections should offend any person, I am sorry for it, it is not my intention: I believe that in a publick place we should conform to the general wish, and should consider it as a great piece of folly not to submit to it: but if it was the general wish to be quiet, 'twould be so much the better.

I had two letters from Mr. B. Conyng-
ham for the neighbourhood of this city;
I thought it incumbent on me to let the
Marquis of Waterford know I had one for
him from his deceased friend, and that I
was desirous to know when I might have
the honour of presenting it to him; he an-
swered politely that he should expect me
two or three days after to breakfast: I
thanked him for his politeness and told him,
that as my mode of travelling did not per-
mit me to go ten or twelve Irish miles be-
fore breakfast, I would visit him in the
course of the day. In the interim I carried
another letter to Mr. Cornelius Bolton,
where I spent my time very pleasantly; I
seldom mention what I know of the diffi-

rent persons to whom I was recommended, except when it may be useful as a good example: in this case to mention the fact is what they at least deserve.

Mr. Cornelius Bolton lives very retired in the country, and has employed a considerable part of his fortune in building a large village, where he has established several important manufactures, particularly looms: the industry which he encourages in his colony renders it probable that his expence will be repaid him, and that it will become an object of utility to the publick, and of profit to him, though suggested by motives of humanity.

I returned to town by the river, the banks of which are very romantic and very much improved, and set out for Curraghmore, where I arrived fatigued and out of breath about four o'clock: I sent up my letter to the Marquis of Waterford, and being received very politely begged leave to retire a few minutes to dress. I was then told they would be glad of my company

pany to dinner, but that they could not give me a bed: this puzzled me a little, for I did not know where the devil to sleep, but as usual I relied on providence.

The marquis made me sit next him and treated me with a great degree of politeness; after dinner he offered me his carriage to take me to the inn, he was very sorry that his house was full: I thanked him for his offer but did not accept it; a servant was sent to carry my bundle; his son even offered me some other article at my departure, which I refused saying I should be sorry to be troublesome to the friends of Mr. B. Conyngham. After walking up to my knees in mud with my pumps and white silk stockings, I arrived about half after ten at the inn. I asked for a bed; an ugly-looking scoundrel of a servant told me there was none, I then snatched my bundle out of the servant's hand, and desiring him tell his master that I had been refused a bed, I walked on smartly; when they heard the marquis's name, they ran after me and begged of me

to return, I would rather pass the night in hell, said I, pitching them to all the d—ls there.

At the corner of a wall I put on my travelling-dress, intending to go to Waterford, though it was eleven o'clock. By the time I was dressed, I reflected that I was fatigued: I resolved to return to the village and to sleep any where but at the inn; I met the parish-priest; I spoke to him, my foreign accent made him get rid of me with all due charity. This village resembled the one where Jupiter and Mercury went to demand hospitality, and were refused at every door; like them I was going out of the village when I perceived a poor cabin, the wretched asylum of poverty. . . . I rapped at the door; an old woman, another Baucis covered with rags opened it; I said I was a poor weary traveller that lost my way. . . . She made me go in, and offered her all. . . . A few potatoes which she got by begging.

Half

Half a dozen children almost naked were sleeping on a little straw, with a pig, a dog, a cat, two chickens and a duck : I never before saw such a sight. The poor woman told me her husband was a sailor, that he had gone to sea three years ago, and that she had never heard from him since. She spread a mat on a chest, the only piece of furniture in the house, and invited me to lie there. . . . It rained very hard and I knew not where to go, so I lay down on this bed of thorns. The animals saluted the first rays of the sun by their cries and began to look about for something to eat. The novelty of my situation amused me for a moment: I transported myself in imagination into the Ark, and fancied myself Noah.

It would seem that I appeared as odd to these animals as they did to me ; the dog came to smell me, at the same time shewing his teeth and barking, the pig also put up her snout to me and began to grunt, the chickens and the duck began to eat my powder-bag, and the children began to laugh : I got up very soon for fear of being devoured

devoured myself. I should add that I had no small difficulty in making my hostess accept a shilling.

My first intention was to pass on through Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, and even to get to Mallow; these three towns are in a very fine and fertile country: the last in particular, is much frequented on account of its mineral waters: I intended to return from thence to Lismore, and continue my journey: disgusted with the world, I got into the most savage and least frequented part of the country. . . . After walking a couple of hours, finding myself hungry, I went to the cabin of a peasant who appeared to be in easy circumstances. I told them without any ceremony that I was hungry, and wanted something to eat. I'm sure these good people took me for a French prisoner that had made his escape; they led me into a dark room; and brought me provisions with an appearance of mystery; when I had done, I asked what was to pay, and as they would make no answer to this question, I left some money on the table.

table. I had scarce gone two hundred paces when I heard a little girl cry out after me. She brought me the money I had left on the table, and told me her mother was quite affronted. I should be sorry for that, said I, it was by no means my intention; I am highly obliged to her, but I hope you will accept the trifle to buy a ribband: she put it in her pocket with some apparent reluctance, made me a low courtesy and wished me a good journey.

Travelling along a winding road and through a poor country, I arrived at Kill-Mac-Thomas a large town where I dined, and perceived that I brought some companions with me from the cabin; there was no remedy then; I pushed on and got to Dungarvan, where the first thing I did was to drown my companions of Curraghmore in the sea, and after sleeping soundly the day following 'till noon, I recovered my strength, and with it my good humour.

Dungarvan is a little town very well situated on a bay of the same name, which unfortunately

fortunately is full of sand; it is scarce of any other use than as a bathing place. This town is famous for a remarkable prospect, which the inhabitants admire so much that they call it by the name of *Dungarvan prospect*.

I find some difficulty in explaining this, but shall try to satisfy the reader. . . . The fact is. . . . One of the suburbs is separated from the town by a large stream, where the water is not more than half a foot deep when the tide is out; in order to avoid a great round, the women ford it over; this is all very well yet, but by degrees the water becomes one, two, or even three feet deep: the good women however prefer going about a hundred paces through it, instead of going a round of one or two miles, and they do all they can to keep their petticoats dry. . . . This is the whole of the matter.

Although I was not quite recovered from yesterday's walk and the fatigue of the night before, as I knew nobody in this place,

place, I left it after dinner: I had time enough to travel eight or nine miles and stopped near Cappoquin, which is handsomely situated on the Black-water; this river passes from the west to the east of Ireland almost entirely across; where it passes Mallow and even before it waters a beautiful country.

In the morning I was surprized to see the master of the inn where I had passed the night, sitting down in an apothecary's shop, which was on the ground-floor, "What, are you an apothecary?" said I to him: "Yes sir, at your service." "G—d—n, at my service, I am not surprized if you have poisoned me, if I knew this, I would rather have been d—d than enter your house." I mention this instance out of a thousand; must it not be curious to see an inn-keeper apothecary? An apothecary's kitchen?

I went from thence to Lismore on the Black-water: its old ivy-covered castle situated on a hill over the Black-water, strikes a person

a person immediately. Lismore is one of the most pleasant situations in Ireland: it is almost surrounded with woods and charming walks, at present quite neglected; it appears that before the reformation there were large seminaries and colleges here; there are no remains of these but the great cathedral church, the bishop who is also bishop of Waterford, the dean and two or three other ecclesiastics of the established church, have nothing else to do but spend their revenues, which formerly went to the support of these institutions. The Duke of Devonshire, to whom the castle belongs, and who has an estate of twelve or fifteen thousand a year in this country, has lately built an inn, and a magnificent arch to the bridge, in order to prevail on the inhabitants to bear his absence patiently, and to send him his rents, without grumbling. The arch is really superb: it may be almost twenty feet over the river, and a hundred feet high.

At the risk of falling into the water, I went under the bridge along a little stone path

path about two or three inches wide; it has seven different echoes for a word of one syllable, and among others repeated what, what, what, during a quarter of an hour, to my great amusement, and quite naturally.

There was a man at the other side of the arch who looked at me with as much attention, as I was looking at the bridge; I addressed him in Scotch, "*That's a mickle braw braig mon*" said I, "Yes Mr. Scot, have you got such a one in your coun-try," said he.

I was received here by Doctor Power, at whose house I was very glad to rest myself. On Sunday I first went to mass, where I could hardly get room. When it was over, I went to the protestant church, where I found room enough in one of the canon's seats: the canon's seats with the titles of their benefices are preserved in the Irish churches, although there are no longer any other dignitaries but deans.

I then went towards Castle-Lyons; in the middle of the road finding myself thirsty and seeing no inn, I asked an old soldier who was standing near his house the way, letting him know at the same time what I wanted, "Come in young man," said he, "and you shall have a good drink," which I really got. The castle of Castle-Lyons is a large square building, which was burned about thirty years ago, it had then 365 windows, and was the chief residence of Lord Barrymore. There is no appearance of industry or manufactories in the little town near it, it seems to be a poor place.

Rathcormuck is something better, because it is on the high-road from Dublin to Cork: the nearer you come to the latter city, the worse cultivated the country is; this I could perceive quite at my ease from an open chair, into which the driver invited me, in order to have somebody to chat with. I arrived in Cork, a very gloomy and dirty city: every person you meet is yawning; you are every moment stopped by

by funerals, droves of cattle, or beggars, who go through the streets by dozens, and yet this city is one of the richest and most commercial in Europe: the principal merchants are strangers, chiefly Scotchmen, who generally make large fortunes in about ten or twelve years.

There are few cities where there is so much to be done in order to render it agreeable to the majority of its poor inhabitants; the spirit of commerce and industry has monopolized every branch of police; for instance they might have a public fountain, but the persons or the company who possess the privilege of supplying the city with pipe-water, would probably lose a great number of annual subscribers at a guinea each. Thus, in order to enrich a few individuals, thirty thousand inhabitants must suffer the torments of Tantalus. I have seen the poor obliged to collect the water that falls from the roofs after rain, or take it out of the channel. There are however few places that might be so easily provided with water as Cork,

on account of the neighbouring hills: there is even a fountain about a mile off, called Sunday's-well, which appeared to me adequate to the supply of a publick fountain.—The water, with which private houses are supplied is drawn from the bed of the river, a mile above the city, where it is fresh. Would it be difficult then to do for the publick what has been done to serve a few rich individuals?

The dirtiness of the streets is really shameful, and, as if they had not done enough to prevent the sun and wind from drying up the pools, both ends of the principal streets are terminated by prisons, which effectually prevent the free circulation of air.

The corn-market of so large a city must be much frequented; it is here on the second story, and the crowd have no other passage to get up but a stair-case two or three feet wide, exposed to wind and weather, and the steps of which are so slippery that the passengers risk their necks.

A person

A person might suppose that they would at least be free for those who had business in the market; but on the contrary the most hideous-looking beggars have taken possession of the side of the wall, and stun the passengers with their cries, holding out at the same time a porringer or a bag, into which the former are obliged to throw some meal. . . . I saw a poor woman fall from the top of this stair-case to the bottom, throw down every person in her way, and break her own arm.

The meat-market alone is what it ought to be; it is new, and it is to be hoped the magistrates will some time or other turn their attention to other publick places.

Although the people are poor, nothing can prevail on them to send their children to the foundling-hospital: they are afraid they would be sent abroad from them: this was really the case formerly, but the present system is milder. Nor do they wish their children should be educated in the

protestant religion, which alone is professed in these establishments.

Some of these poor wretches are often seen with two children on their back, one in their apron, and holding a fourth by the hand, asking charity from passengers, who become so accustomed to such sights, that they turn aside with indifference. The woman however very phlegmatically smokes a black pipe, so short that you would suppose she had fire in her mouth.

The rich accuse the poor of being fond of filthiness, of the itch, of sleeping with the cattle, &c. &c. . . . But it is not really from choice; necessity, cruel necessity obliges them to do it. . . . They are so wretched that every thing becomes indifferent to them; let them get the means of bettering their situation, let them taste of the comforts of life, and you'll see what kind of men you accuse of laziness, indolence, and a thousand propensities, of which the vilest animals are unsusceptible.

The

The peasant in this country is lazy, but what would he gain by being laborious? The price of his labour scarce suffices to maintain him and his family: the price of provisions is trebled, yet the price of labour remains the same. In every part of Ireland almost, the labourer gets but six-pence a day: his wife and children can gain nothing where there are no manufactories. What then shall his poor family do? Six-pence suffice to feed him and his family with potatoes and water. If the father gets sick or dies, the poor widow is obliged to go about the country begging.*

Curfed be he who first speculated on the miseries of his fellow-creatures: as soon as
avarice

* Two circumstances which promote industry in a nation are high wages of labour, and a relish for the comforts of life. When the labourer by regular exertion acquires more than is absolutely necessary for subsistence, he is induced to lay by the surplus, from the natural wish every man has of bettering his condition, and securing to himself a prospect of independence. But where the wages of labour barely suffice

avarice has learned to ridicule the misfortunes of others, it considers itself under no obligation of assisting them.

I went to Cove, the port of Cork, ten or twelve miles lower down at the mouth of the river: it is one of the handsomest and safest harbours in Europe; I was very well

suffice for subsistence, he has no other inducement to exertion but the immediate pressure of want, his imagination not being cheered with any prospect of improving his situation, he naturally sinks into an apathy, from which he can be roused only by necessity. To prove this from experience we need only turn our attention to England and Holland, where the price of labour is high and where workmen are consequently indefatigable. The Irish accused of indolence at home where their industry is poorly requited, are very laborious in England.

The wages of labour must in the common course of things be proportioned to the price of provisions. Extraordinary circumstances may however destroy the balance which should subsist between them: thus a foreign war may produce an increase of the price of provisions, whilst the uncertainty of the continu-

ance

well received by the brave General Val-
lancy, to whom I presented the last letter
I had from Mr. B. Conyngham. His re-
searches on Irish antiquities are well known
in the republick of letters: he has per-
haps carried his enthusiasm for the Irish
language too far; though an Englishman
he

ance of this price and the naturally slow progress of
agriculture will prevent a proportional increase of
the price of labour.

It is evidently the interest of the state and of weal-
thy individuals that labour should be adequately re-
warded. The former benefits by the increase of po-
pulation, for the poor are deterred by poverty alone
from matrimony. And the rich benefit because
workmen exert themselves in proportion to their
hire, and because a certain degree of comfort is al-
ways attended by punctuality in payment, honesty
and attachment.

The effects of a certain degree of independence on
the morals of the labouring part of the community,
have been noticed in a former note. And from the
same source we are enabled to adduce instances of its
effects on their industry, and on the increase of po-
pulation. It is well known that the peasantry of
Poland

he has made a surprizing progress in it ; he pretends that it is coeval with the world, and perhaps the language which Adam and Eve spoke : the mother of all languages, in the world, from the Huron to the Chinese.

Poland are in a state of vassalage ; incapable of possessing property they are attached to the different estates like cattle, and may be sold or transferred with as little ceremony. Some benevolent noblemen restored to their vassals their natural rights, and this act of justice was every where attended with the happiest consequences. The population of these noblemen's estates was rapidly increased, and the revenues doubled.

Zamoiski, a nobleman who had enfranchised six villages, (see Coxe's travels through Poland) had been obliged, according to custom, to build cottages and barns for his peasants, and to furnish them with seed, horses, ploughs and every implement of agriculture : since their enfranchisement, they are become so easy in their circumstances, as to provide themselves with all these necessaries at their own expence ; and they likewise cheerfully pay an annual rent in lieu of the manual labour, which their master formerly exacted from them. By these means the receipts of this particular estate have been nearly trebled. On

Chinese. In his grammar he quotes some curious instances of analogy between thirty living languages in every part of the known world.

It is certain that all European nations, the majority of the Asiatic and even of the African, are come from the countries whence the Irish deduce their origin : it is possible the remote situation of the islanders may enable them to preserve longer the original purity of their language.

The Shiloes in Africa, the inhabitants of a part of Siberia, some mountaineers in

On signing the deed of their enfranchisement, he expressed some apprehensions, least, encouraged by their freedom, they should commit more outrages than whilst they were slaves. Their answer was: " When we had no other property than the stick we hold in our hands, we were destitute of all encouragement to a right conduct; and *having nothing to lose, acted on all occasions in an inconsiderate manner*; but now that our houses, our lands and our cattle are our own, the fear of forfeiting them will be a constant restraint on our actions."

TRANSLATOR.

in the country of the Grisons are, next to the Scotch, the people whose language has most analogy with the Irish. After these may be ranked the Welch, the people of lower Brittany, the Dalecarlians in Sweden, the Basques in France and Spain, the Sclavonians in Turkey, the Hurons in America, the Moguls in Asia.

General Vallancey, as I mentioned before, has explained the speech of the Carthaginian general in Plautus, and thus proved that these republicans spoke a language very similar to the Irish. The colony, which they call Shiloes at Tunis are supposed to be descended from the Carthaginians who escaped after the destruction of their empire, and fled to the mountains distant from the sea-coast. Some years ago a Tunis merchant who knew the language of the Shiloes, came to Dublin about some commercial matters: the deceased Mr. Burton Conyngham, who wished to be sure of the analogy between both languages, invited General Vallancey to breakfast and introduced him to the Tunisian, with-

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out previously informing him he was to be there ; to his great surprise, they soon entered into conversation with each other, and seemed to be at no loss to comprehend what was said. This merchant had an old woman with him, who was a Shiloe. She conversed without the least difficulty with the Irish, and made herself understood, though her accent and expressions were different.

General Vallancy has been travelling through Ireland these fifteen years, and has drawn maps of the counties on a large scale: government, as a reward for his labour, has given him the place of commander of the port of Cove, which he has fortified in such a manner that no hostile ship will venture in. . . . It must be confessed he has served the state in more respects than one, for he has had twelve children by his first wife, ten by his second, and twenty-one by the third.—Few men have laboured so much in the vine-yard.

I also paid my respects to Lady Colthurst, an amiable widow and too pretty a one to continue long in weeds. The general, to whom I shewed my letters, directed my course to the north, instead of immediately returning to Cork.

I travelled across the Great-island of Cove, I got tired and began to read inscriptions in a church-yard. I had often heard of Irish bulls, but had not yet found one; on one of these tombs I read with pleasure, *Lord have mercy on the souls here interred*: ho! ho! said I, these good people are buried here body and soul. In almost every part of Ireland, but more particularly in the south, they have rather an odd method of expressing themselves, which, as far as I could perceive, proceeds from jumbling both languages together; this is called a bull. But it really is no more so than the faults a stranger imperfectly acquainted with a language is apt to commit. They generally call the wall *ditch*, and the ditch *dyke*, whereas it is the contrary.

I crossed

I crossed over the north passage of the island, and after visiting Rostillion, the seat of the Earl of Inchiquin, from whence there is the finest prospect in the harbour, I went to Lord Longueville's at Castle-Mary, and went to see an altar of the Druids in the park.... These monuments of antiquity are very remarkable: this is a large flat stone from fifteen to twenty feet broad, and from twenty to thirty in length, supported on its three sides by three other flat stones placed on their angles.

A person is astonished when he reflects on what kind of machines they must have used to raise such a weight: it is surprising, but the Egyptian obelisks conveyed by sea to Rome, though a man of war could not carry one of them, should surprise us still more. These stones prove that the people who put them in this situation were acquainted with mechanics, and must consequently have attained a high degree of civilization. To what use they converted them; we don't know: it is pretended the Druids sacrificed human victims on them;

that might be, but it is evident they might also serve for exposing any object to the people.

I went from thence to Cloyne, where I partook of the benediction the bishop gives to his clergy on sundays after divine service. At some distance from the cathedral is one of the round towers, which is higher and wider than usual: the neighbouring peasants are convinced that it was built in one night by the devil, who was obliged to bring the stones from a far distant country. I saw no difference between these and other stones, but 'tis the same thing; if the devil built it, he's a very good mason: that's all I know about it.

Cloyne is one of the chief bishoprics in Ireland: the town is small, but a little larger than Fernes. Following the crowd of peasants who had come to mass, I got on the road to Castle-Martyr: near this pretty little town I met a respectable-looking gentleman riding with a lady; it immediately struck me who he was: I asked his servant,

servant, and finding it was Lord Shannon, I desired he should be told that a stranger, who had a letter for him would wish to see him. . . . I gave it to him on the way, and when he read it, he begged I would go to his house, whither he would follow me.

Castle-Martyr is one of the prettiest and neatest places, not only in Ireland, but in all Europe. The flower-garden, which Lady Shannon amuses herself with cultivating, is a charming retreat, where flowers of every kind are arranged with remarkable elegance. . . . I passed five or six days at Lord Shannon's, and on leaving it he was so kind as to give me a general letter of recommendation: it was directed to his friends only, but I presented it every where, and the reception it met with proved that he is universally esteemed.

Returning towards Cork, I stopped at Middleton to see a fine cloth-manufactory; a manufactory in this part of Ireland is a rarity; this has encountered many obstacles, and at present does not succeed as

well as it ought; many persons at Cork have assured me that if the company could borrow twenty thousand pounds, interest free for ten years, it would become very flourishing in a dozen years; but who could lend £20,000 interest free? Government alone: this might be very easily done by laying a heavy tax on whiskey, and expending the receipt in encouraging manufactories of every kind: two important objects would be gained by this, industry would be encouraged, and drunkenness diminished.

From thence I went to visit one of the favourites of fortune in the island of Foaty, Mr. Smith Barry, he has travelled much, is very polite, well-informed and easy in his manners; he would have been happy if he had only five hundred a year, instead of twenty-five thousand; but his wealth has fatiated and disgusted him so much with the world, that he leads a solitary life in his island, which by no means resembles that of Calypso. I got from thence into the little island of Cove, and went to Mr. Silver Oliver's,

Oliver's, who entertains an old French emigrant officer at his house, where he is treated with great attention. Mr. Oliver pretends that he has performed all that society can require of a man ; he has been twice or thrice member of parliament, was privy-counsellor, was married, and has several children, &c. &c. He consequently considers himself authorized to indulge his whims, and these are often very original.

I returned to Cork in a boat, and had an opportunity of observing that boatmen have the same jibing manner here they have in France. I was obliged to enter once more this gloomy city ; the people however seemed roused by something, and whole troops of workmen were running through the streets shouting ; I asked the meaning of all this, and was told that the journeymen shoemakers had unanimously quitted their masters that day, and were running through the streets to oblige them to increase their wages. I followed the crowd and saw them stop before their master's

ter's shops, where they had some hot words with them ; at last the magistrates thought it prudent to put an end to it ; one of them at the head of some foldiers, went through the streets to disperse them, but the mutineers managed so cunningly that he never could come up with them : night put an end to the disturbance and sent them all to bed.

I was recommended to the bishop who received me very politely, and what gave me much pleasure (as it proved the extinction of religious animosities*) he introduced me to the catholic bishop, Doctor Moylan, a well-informed gentleman, and much respected here. On

* It is unfortunate that religious animosity is by no means extinct in this country. Men must be blind to their own interests, when they wish to see any particular description of persons humbled or oppressed : it is the interest of every class of society that the others should thrive. Thus it is the interest of the inhabitants of the country that those of the towns should be wealthy, as they would then consume a greater proportion of their productions, and vice versa. This

On account of some festival the children made a bone-fire (as is the custom in Ireland on all days of rejoicing) and amused themselves by dancing round it with their naked feet. I am inclined to believe that the term bone-fire is derived from the bones they burn on these occasions, rather than from the French words *bon feu*.

The climate of Cork is very rainy : scarce a day passes without a shower ; this appears to have no small influence on the character of the inhabitants : this country may be called the land of spleen or whim. There are several originals here, who have the most uncommon fancies : one person never sits down to table without being apprehensive of being poisoned by the smell
of

This holds equally true with respect to sects or subdivisions in society : none of them is insulated from the rest ; the prosperity or adversity of the whole is indissolubly connected.

This simple and striking truth has been but lately felt, and is not yet fully conceived in this country.

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of the meat, and always eats alone in his chamber: another spends his money on favourite animals or pets as they are called: a third (a good fellow enough in his own house) after enchanting your ears with vocal and instrumental musick, concludes the entertainment by boxing with you: another gallops through the streets with a red cap on his head, and rides into the shops when he wants any thing: I saw a piper who preferred his pipes to two thousand a year, of which he has been disinherited, and must now trust to his talents for subsistence: there is a man who thinks the whole world have conspired to poison him; as soon as he perceives any person going into a baker's shop, he follows him and snatches the bread he buys, because (according to his idea) the baker intends to injure nobody but him, he acts in the same manner at the butcher's, &c. Another nurses his own children, washes them, combs them &c. himself. I might mention several other anecdotes, but these may suffice.

There's

There's no bedlam in Cork; it is shocking to see madmen running wild through the streets: they are in general very quiet, it is true, but it is so humiliating to see human nature so much degraded, that they ought to be separated from society.

Cork has increased its trade very much of late years, the houses have been proportionably improved, and the population augmented; the city is built on different marshy islands in the middle of the river; from this situation it derives its name (for Cork means miry and the name is not misapplied.*) The narrow canals, which separated the islands, were dry when the tide was out rendered the air very unwholesome: they have been arched since, and this has produced the double advantage of having wide streets, and fresh air.

It

* Others derive it from *Curky*, which signifies oats: the peasants certainly call it still so, but that is no proof.

It would be absolutely necessary that, for ten or twelve years at least, the magistrates were prudent steady men, who had some other opportunity of acquiring information besides what might be gleaned behind a counter, and that they knew something else besides counting the interest of money at six per cent.

In Great-Britain and Ireland the mayor is every where elected by the merchants; and justly as they ought to confide their interests to a person well acquainted with them. In cities much frequented by strangers, the merchant acquires information by seeing the world; but in those where he sees nobody but merchants, or where, if he be a stranger, he is intent on getting as much money as possible, and then quitting the country, it is plain that the embellishment and improvement of a city, where he will be chief magistrate only a year, cannot give him much trouble.

I believe this to be one of the chief causes of the little progress Cork has made in
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the arts, of the small number of publick amusements, and of useful establishments. If such a man as Lord Shannon took the trouble of cleaning this Augean stable, he must be quite disinterested, and have no other object in view but the interest of the publick: he would not be deterred from promoting beneficial projects, by the apprehension that the city-revenues might lose some shillings or farthings by it.*

As I have said so much on this subject, I may with propriety be asked what improvements I would propose; I shall briefly mention the principal. They should throw down the two gloomy prisons built

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* When Count Rumford's method of diminishing the expence of coal, and of improving chimnies was introduced into Cork, some respectable persons wished it should be adopted in the Hospitals; but the Mayor opposed this, because if it succeeded it would diminish the tax on coal which belongs to the city. Ought not he perceive that it would consequently diminish his expence, and be useful to a great number of inhabitants obliged, by the high price of coal to pass the winter without firing?

on the bridges, and finish that which they are building in a wholesome situation outside the city: clean the streets, and not permit pigs to feed there: build a corn-market in a proper place: establish publick schools, where children may be instructed in the religion they wish to profess, and not to have one crammed down their throats: build a bedlam: erect publick fountains: throw down the houses that spoil the quays: encourage manufactories of every kind: establish a house of industry for beggars: have publick works, where every man who wanted food, may gain it by his labour.

I am convinced that if such a plan was adopted, Cork would in fifty years equal Dublin, on account of the safety and good situation of the port; the exportation of salt-meat is its chief branch of trade, it is killed in the season, and the people are idle the rest of the year: I knew a merchant who told me he killed between twenty and twenty-five thousand pigs annually; I told him he was the greatest murderer of hogs
I ever

I ever knew. This digression is rather long, it may even appear too fine-spun to people who do not care about Cork; but this work is intended more for the Irish than for strangers, and the disinterestedness of my motive must be a sufficient excuse.*

O 2

I quitted

* Many other improvements, besides those suggested by the author, are necessary in Cork. A considerable part of a wall has been built, by which, if it were finished, the river would be rendered much deeper, and an extensive and well situated tract of ground would be gained, which alone would in all probability indemnify the Corporation for any expence they would incur. The Merchants of Cork petitioned Government, that the tolls of the weigh-houses should be expended on the execution of this beneficial project, but through the influence of a patriotic representative of that city, these tolls were assigned for the payment of two or three sinecure places. There is a very handsome publick walk there; from this the majority of the inhabitants are precluded, by there being no other passage to it from the centre of the city, but through dirty, ill-paved lanes. Cork, from its low, marshy situation, is very dirty in rainy weather. This inconvenience is very much aggravated by the immense deposits of dung in the centre of the city: these are equally disagreeable to the smell, and prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants.

There

I quitted the good city of Cork and went to Bandon; unfortunately the Lord of the place was not at home; this town was a long time famous for its revolutionary zeal; it is said the inhabitants decreed once, that no catholic should sleep there. All I could remark was that the nine tenths of them must have been great cowards.

In the middle of the town is a bridge with this inscription, *Tandem Emergo*: except it be the devil that St. Patrick threw into the hole in the mountain, I don't know what it means.

Lord

There is a house of Industry, and cells for lunatics in the South Infirmary of that city. But it would be cruel to confine those unfortunate beings, who, though they are bereft of reason, commit no outrages.

It may be remarked that it is in general better policy to prevent mendicity than to provide asylums for the poor. In those countries where most money is laid out in charity, there are most beggars, for instance in Spain (see Townsend's travels in that country.)

Lord Bandon was building a new house near the old one, perhaps it will not be so good, but that's no matter: the rich ought to throw down and build up; it makes money circulate.

Going out of the town a young man joined me and told he was going the same road, this pleased me, particularly as the inhabitants do not speak English, and after the first compliment *conastatu*, (how do you do?) and *tabhar dhom*, (give me.) I had nothing else to say. An Italian would be surprised at hearing the poor people in

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Ireland

country.) Provide work for the labouring part of the community, let their labour be adequately rewarded, and then every man who begs and can work deserves punishment. The punishment should be confinement in a work-house, where he should be furnished with the bare necessaries of life, and obliged to acquire any comfort or superfluity by his labour;—the duration of the confinement should be shortened in proportion to the facility with which he would acquire habits of industry, and at his liberation he may perhaps become an useful member of society.

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Ireland salute in the same manner as they do in his country : in Italy well-bred people say, *come sta*, but the common people say, *come state*, which is similar to the Irish, and there is scarce any difference in the pronunciation.

The young man who travelled with me appeared to be a good kind of soul and described the country as we went along : when we had walked about ten miles, " I am sorry sir," said he, " very sorry." " For what my good fellow," said I, " what is the cause of your trouble?" " Ah, sir, " I am sorry that I have no money to treat " you to a glass of whiskey." I thought this method of asking rather original, and I told him he had no cause for uneasiness, for I would treat him with pleasure.

When we had taken a drop of the *creature*, (the general name they give to whiskey) " To prove my gratitude sir," said he, " I will shew you some water that cures " every complaint." He took me into a church-yard and shewed me a stone-vessel
on

on a tomb. "This vessel is always full
"of water," said he, "and nobody ever
"put any into it; this water is good in
"every disorder. However I came from
"Bandon last week for a bottle of it for
"my mother, who has the dropfy, and
"I do not perceive that she is at all the
"better for it." "Don't you see the cause
"of it," said I, the water is dirty and the
"vessel full of mud, let us clean it and the
"water will then be very good." We
took a handful of grafs and managed so
as to draw off all the water, my fellow-
traveller was astonished when he saw the
vessel empty, "Let us get off as fast as
"we can," said he, "for if the inhabitants
"perceived what has happened they would
"break our heads."

The cabins of the poor, in this part of
the country, are truly wretched: they of-
ten put two sticks across on the corner of
a ditch, build the third side with mud, and
cover it with fods; this explains the story
of huntsmen, on horseback, falling through
the roof among the astonished family.

At

At length I arrived at Macroom : I had got a kind of umbrella fixed on my cane-sword at Cork, so that there were six or seven inches above the umbrella when it was raised ; it was pouring rain, and I perceived the women grinning at me ; the children began to assemble in such crowds that I could hardly walk. When I perceived this I shut my umbrella, " Oh it is " nothing," said every body, " but an " umbrella on a cane," and they dispersed.

I inquired for Mr. Hedges's house ; it was shewn me at a distance at the extremity of a long avenue : I went towards it, but Mr. Hedges met me, and after asking one or two questions, " You are a stranger," said he, taking me by the hand even before he read my letter, " every thing in my " house is at your service." This is a specimen of the good old Irish hospitality : what pleasure it gives a man to meet with it in this wicked world.

From Mount-Hedges there is a charming prospect of the rich valley and of the river,

river, on whose banks Macroom is situated. You see also an old castle formerly the dwelling-place of the sovereigns of the country, but which is now converted into barracks for the soldiers garrisoned in the town.

The life of a wandering Jew agreed so well with me that, though I was every day wet to the skin, and often very much fatigued, I was getting as fat as a friar. One time I fared well, another time ill, but knew how to profit of the one without being put out of humour by the other. Confiding in Providence I laid all my cares and troubles aside. Like the philosophers of antiquity carrying my all in my budget, I pushed on and examined whatever was worth seeing; nature displayed all her charms to me: the novelty of the scenery amused and interested me. Before the revolution I inhabited only a corner of the globe: since I emigrated I had become a citizen of the world; the universe seemed to belong to me.

All

All places that the eye of Heaven visits,
Are to a wise man, ports and happy havens.
Now, no way can I stray,
Save back to France, all the world is my way.

After all it was very natural that my journey should improve my health, for I did not in fact over fatigue myself. On account of the great number of letters of recommendation, I was always sure of finding *good quarters* at night. I went in fact from house to house, and often could not get away before the third or fourth day, and was invited by different persons to terminate my rambles at their house. This may seem preferable to many, but I was not born in Brittany without participating in the influence of the climate : I was determined to execute my project and pushed on.

I went to Dunmanway across very wild mountains ; I passed a very large marsh, which proceeds from the river that flows through it, having no bed. At a distance there are several small fertile islands, which
proves

proves it would be easy to dry it entirely. If a few Dutch frogs were thrown on it, it would be soon done.

On a sudden I heard some people crying, and perceived a great crowd assembled on the road: I could not imagine what they meant, but when I got near, I perceived it was a funeral; this was the first time I saw so curious a ceremony; the women cry *hu lu lu* in chorus, tear their hair and throw themselves on the coffin. A person would suppose them to be very much grieved, but they are by no means so, they look on it as a duty incumbent on them to mourn in this manner, and every corpse that passes by may expect the same treatment; when these good women have done what they think requisite to appease the manes of the deceased, they go home as merry as if nothing had happened; if a neighbour or any person who had the slightest acquaintance with the deceased, omitted appearing at the funeral without some important reason, it would produce eternal discord between both families.

This

This *pille-lu*, or *lu lá lu*, appears to bear some analogy to the *ululatus* of the Romans and other funeral cries of the ancient nations; the manner of pronouncing it made me suppose it might be an imitation of the *De profundis* which priests sing at burials in catholic countries; a ceremony omitted in Ireland, but perhaps remembered by the people. I do not think they could bawl in such a manner at any ecclesiastical ceremony, without disturbing the priests, and hindering them from doing their duty.

I passed near one of these round forts so common in Ireland, and generally ascribed to the Danes. It is probable the Danes built some of them, but the majority were chiefly inhabited by the chiefs or kings of the country. This is called *gragan re*, which means the king's palace, *re* or king is another Italian word. The inhabitants call them *rath* or *lifs*; I am not sufficiently well acquainted with the language of the country to know the difference, which I believe proceeds from their situation: thus

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we may be sure that all towns, the names of which begin with *lifs* or *rath* as Rathdrum and Lismore had fortifications of this kind, or rather that the city had been built within their circuit. These forts are all built on the same model, quite round with a double fossé, and in all the large ones is a subterraneous cavern, four or five feet deep and covered with long flat stones at the top. I got into several of them, and found them quite dry, with a little fountain in the middle. They are always made in a zigzag direction, and have two entrances, one of which opens into the building, and the other into the first fossé. The use to which they were applied has puzzled antiquarians; they could not serve as a retreat for the troops, they are too low and narrow; some have pretended that cattle were put into them: I cannot suppose it was for this they were intended, though I saw one large enough to shelter cattle from the heat of the sun; their driness induces me to believe that the inhabitants made them a depot for provisions, and a place

through which they might escape, in case the fort was surprized by the enemy.

On the road I saw one of those schools the English take so much pleasure in ridiculing, and which they call hedge-schools: the truth is that the poor peasants cannot afford to build a fine house for a school, it is generally a poor hut without a window.*

It

* It is to be lamented that some plan is not adopted by which the peasantry may receive a simple and useful education. Nothing would more effectually contribute to rescue them from the savage state with which they are so often reproached. There is no inherent badness in their dispositions: on the contrary, from the testimony of our author and other respectable writers, it is evident that they are remarkable for their attachment and fidelity to each other, their kindness and hospitality to strangers, and in the native powers of their minds they are not inferior to the peasantry of any other nation. Most of their faults are to be attributed, among other powerful causes, to their ignorance. To obviate this in future the country gentlemen should institute societies and enter into annual subscriptions for the establishment of schools through the country, to which the peasantry should be invited to send their children.

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It is plain that the master and scholars find it unpleasant, and when the weather permits, they go and sit under a hedge, where the master gives his lectures in the fresh air. For my part I think a lesson in the fresh air is as good as in a confined, dirty school, but it is not the fashion in England.

P 2

I arrived

At these schools the children should be taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, that they might know how to arrange their affairs, and thus escape a thousand acts of injustice, to which they are otherwise liable. By the aid of calculation they can better estimate the produce of their lands, compare the expences of cultivation with the revenue they draw from them, and judge whether an agricultural practice should be retained or rejected. Books of rural economy, the precepts of which are clear, and adapted to the capacity of children, should be composed purposely for their use and distributed amongst them. The benevolent purposes of such an institution would be considerably advanced by the occasional distribution of prizes of moderate value to those who would most distinguish themselves. One or more of the members of the society should be appointed monthly to visit the schools, to see that the master attends to his duty, and should make a report of the progress of the children and the state of the schools at the next meeting of the society.

Are

I arrived at last at Dunmanaway, where I was well received by Mr. Cox; few men have contributed more to the improvement of their country than this gentleman, and it was very necessary in so remote and neglected a part of the island. He encourages manufactures of every kind in the town,

Are we then to expect that the country gentlemen will deign to take such an interest in the concerns of the people? Will they at length be prevailed upon to snatch a moment from their precious amusements, or the petty political intrigues of their counties, to bestow a thought on the condition of those, who by their labour minister to their wants, and enable them to enjoy those pleasures which seem so exclusively to occupy them? Yes! the time may arrive when their tenantry will engage at least as much of their attention as their hounds and horses. At present I am forced to confess that the balance is very much in favour of the latter. The fact is, the country gentlemen are as deficient in the education fit for their station in life, as the peasantry, and for the same reason, the want of opportunity of improving their talents and learning those branches of knowledge, which may render them useful. Before they exert themselves effectually in favour of the lower classes of society, those prejudices must be removed, which teach them

town, by giving workmen long leases at low rents, and enabling them to dispose of their manufactures; he dries up the marshes, cultivates the soil, and plants trees; he has almost quite rebuilt this little town. Undoubtedly these improvements will in the end be very profitable to him; why

P 3

then

them to despise and trample upon them as their inferiors. Cold self-interest must cease to be the leading principle of their conduct: their minds must be enlightened by science and warmed by benevolence. They will then be ashamed of a sentiment which is now common in the mouths of some of them—that the safety of the state depends upon the ignorance of the people.—A sentiment so base and so unfounded in a country which boasts of a considerable portion of liberty, that we must in charity attribute it to imperfect education, and limited views of human nature.

I am informed that by the patriotic exertions of a young barrister of the name of Marshall, a school has been established in Kerry, for the education of a number of children. It is supported by the voluntary contributions of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, is under their immediate inspection, and has I am told already produced the happiest effects.

TRANSLATOR.

then do so few proprietors understand their interest so ill as not to lay out their money in this manner? The manufactures of cotton and callico are the most numerous.— Some linen is made here also, and in spite of Mr. Arthur Young, I am far from thinking it would be as good to introduce the plague as hemp into Ireland.

There were then about two hundred republican officers there, prisoners on parole; I was anxious to know what kind of men they were. I dined at Mr. Cox's in company with two or three, who were very polite. I perceived with pleasure that they no longer had the ferocious enthusiasm, which inflamed the partisans of the revolution at its commencement. The spirit of moderation seemed to tend to reconcile both parties: these officers seemed to argue in favour of the existing government of France only because it supported them, and because many of them were under obligations to it; it appeared to me that some of them held it in contempt, I even heard these very words, "It is better have one
" than

“ than seven hundred, it is hard to fill so
“ many mouths.”

These opinions, with which undoubtedly the government is acquainted, are the cause of the duration of the war. What would they do with these soldiers if the war was over? They must be fed and perhaps subdued; victories and defeats, on the other hand, provide for a great many of them; besides by continuing the war, the republican government will weaken its neighbours, and when peace is made, which must happen one time or other, the other powers will be so much exhausted that they will feel no inclination to disturb them in their operations, which will be facilitated by the destruction of the three fourths of the troops.

Nevertheless I remarked a blind and unreasonable animosity against the emigrants among them; they are accused of several things they never thought of; they are reproached with bearing arms against France, As if the majority of the emigrants had
not

not been obliged to submit to a requisition more despotic than that of Roberspierre, the requisition of necessity, which they could not fly from to cellars, as they did in France. But one time or other peace will unite all parties, will make them weep over past misfortunes, and endeavour to repair the destruction which civil dissention and political fury have occasioned. It is my ardent wish that this may be soon accomplished. In the interim the majority of republican officers fight for the French government because they have fought for it before and that it is victorious, and they hate the emigrants without well knowing why. One of them, speaking of the finances, confessed that they were really in a very bad state, but, added he, Holland, Spain, Italy, his holiness the Pope, and a part of Germany have already contributed to assist us, and we hope that England will soon do us the same favour . . . they surely jest.

Mr. Cox is universally respected in this country and deservedly; I shall mention an anecdote

anecdote relative to him, to which I was an eye-witness. The minister of the parish came to complain to him that the people were stealing his turnips every day; "They steal mine also," said Mr. Cox. "Well," continued the minister, "let us join together in prosecuting the thieves." "Oh!" replied Mr. Cox, "that would be too severe, but let us sow arsenick among the turnips, and then we will find out the thief." "But we will be poisoned by them," cried the minister, "In that case then," said Mr. Cox, "do as I do, let the poor people take some of your turnips, and say nothing." It is difficult to decide whether the minister was more angry or the auditors better pleased.

The Lord Lieutenant has the privilege of knighting any person he pleases, and they have often turned it into ridicule. The Duke of Rutland, once that he was drunk, was so charmed with a poor blind piper, that he made him kneel down and knighted him. The poor musician is called Sir Dennis O'Grady ever since, but still gains

gains a livelihood by his pipes, he is really a very good player on this instrument, of which I am not ashamed to confess I am very fond.

I have been also told that Lord Townshend, in one of his rambles through Ireland, stopped one night at an ale-house, where he was surprized to find excellent claret, of which he drank very copiously, and knighted the landlord by the name of Sir Thomas He remembered next morning the transactions of the night, and calling in the newly-created nobleman, "We have been guilty of some follies last night," said he, "but I hope you will not mind them." "My lord," answered he, "for my part I do not care about it, but I must consult my wife on the subject." Her answer was; "I never expected to be a lady, but since fortune has made me one, I will remain so all the days of my life." And she is in fact still called Lady, and her husband Sir such-a-one.

I went

I went through a wild country to Bantry, where I was well received by Mr. White. Bantry is a poor little town at the extremity of a fine bay of the same name, and which has been lately much spoken of on account of the appearance of the French fleet. The bay is about forty English miles in length, and fifteen or twenty in breadth; it is very deep every where, except near the town; the adjacent country is barren, hilly, and full of rocks, among which there are, however, some charming situations. Mr. White was kind enough to take me in his boat to Glengariff, betwen Bantry and the island of Bear, about the same distance from each; it is a most charming place: the port which makes part of the bay is full of rocks, which are covered with arbutus trees, and plants of different kinds; we went to a little house belonging to him in the middle of the island, and I saw with astonishment a most romantic and well wooded valley in the midst of rocks and mountains; the soil is so good, that I saw pretty large oaks grow out of a crevice hardly large enough to admit
a man's

a man's finger; they must derive their nourishment from the moisture of the atmosphere.

Between Glangariff and Beer-haven there is a cascade, which falls almost perpendicularly from a high mountain, called Hungry-hill. The island of Bear, where the French remained some days, is thinly inhabited; it is a mass of mountain and rock. Whiddy is another island at the extremity of the bay, not so large as the former, but of an excellent soil. In several parts are walls, which served for the purpose of extricating oil from pilchards, which were formerly found here in great plenty; it has been remarked that they have ceased to appear since the celebrated naval combat between the French and English in the reign of William the third.*

Cape-clear, the most southern point in Ireland, is only twenty miles from Bantry, but

* Pilchards are a species of fish resembling herrings, and subject to similar migrations. They are caught

but as I must have returned the way I went and as there is nothing remarkable there, I omitted visiting it. I never was so near my birth-place, since our fatal emigration. I reflected that with a fair wind I might in one or two days arrive in my native country and sooth the tender solicitude of my parents. Could I ever have imagined that my countrymen would one day look on me as their enemy? I their enemy? By no means. . . . I may blame, I may detest their atrocities; I may suffer from their misplaced animosity; I may be a poor vagabond, without a stone to lay my head on; but France will be always France to me. To my native country will I cast a lingering look to the very last moment of my existence; my most ardent wishes shall be for

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caught in great plenty on the coast of Cornwall, in the month of July. After this time they go to the south in search of a warmer climate. Though the noise of cannon might frighten away the pilchards which were then on the coast, the non-appearance of other swarms must proceed from some other cause.

TRANSLATOR.

its happiness, and the entire pardon of the evils which the crimes of a few individuals have caused.

I quitted with reluctance the hospitable asylum where I had passed three or four pleasant days; it was very galling to me to turn my back to the south and face the north. I soon got to the top of the mountain, the only accessible way to Bantry from the west, and called the Priest's-leap. The tradition of the old women on this head, is, that a holy priest coming from the county of Kerry to Bantry to visit a sick man, was told at the top of the mountain that he was dying. Fearing to arrive too late to give him his passport to the other world, he began to pray, and took a leap from the top of the mountain five miles off.

Near the town is to be seen the place where he fell, and even the signs of his knees, fingers, and nose. Undoubtedly this is very convincing, but I am nevertheless afraid there are some obstinate heretics in the world who will pretend not to believe

believe it, such is the lack of faith in those degenerate days! If the French had taken it into their heads to make such a leap, in what state would Ireland be now? Without something of this kind, however, I believe they would have had no small difficulty in transporting their baggage to the top of the mountain, and in afterwards marching five and twenty Irish miles through a wild country, with precipices on every side as tremendous as those Milton describes in the dominions of Lucifer. I never saw a place like it except the Giant's-Causeway in Ireland, and the Devil's-Turnpike in Scotland; for what they ascribe to the devil in the land of cakes, they ascribe to the priests in the land of potatoes.

CHAP. V.

KILLARNEY. . . . ARDFERT. . . . THE
SHANNON.

AFTER travelling a dozen miles through these barren and desert mountains, a person is agreeably surpris'd at seeing a small cultivated valley near the village of Nedeon; the guide I brought with me to take back the horse had never before been this way; he appeared quite dejected whilst travelling over the mountains, but on seeing this fertile spot, he cried out, oh! this is something like a country.

They have lately given the name of Kenmare-Town to the village in this valley, from politencs to Lord Kenmare: for both in this country and Great Britain they are more polite to rich people than elsewhere. One or two miles before arriving at this place there is a solitary rock in a bog, at about a hundred paces from
the

the road; it is almost thirty feet high, and fifteen or twenty on each surface; so that its circumference is sixty feet: the stone is quite different from that of the country, and there is none any where like it except on the opposite bank of the river.* It is an enormous mass of lime-stone thrown by some earthquake upwards of four miles from its bed. I went to it, walked about it and even got on the top with some trouble. A little tower had been formerly built on it of which the ruins still remain. It is covered with different kinds of shrubs such as small arbutus trees, holms, yews, &c. though the adjacent bog produces only heath.

The inhabitants of the country pretend that it was a certain giant, whose name I have forgotten, that amused himself with

Q 3 carrying

* It is rather extraordinary that all over Ireland the stones at one side of the river differ from those on the other. For instance there is lime on one side of the river Suire and not on the other; the same thing may be observed at Cork, on the river Kenmare, on the Shannon, at Galway, &c.

carrying this piece of lime-stone into the midst of the granite, and a similar rock of granite into a lime-stone country,* where there really is a block of that kind: it would be a curious amusement. . . . This phenomenon can be explained only by an earthquake! but it must have been a terrible explosion that threw a stone weighing a million of pounds six miles off.

The

* The soil of Ireland is allowed to be as good as that of England; the former has even the advantage of a greater diversity of soil. Another considerable advantage is the abundance of lime-stone, which, on account of the great plenty of turf, may be burned at a trifling expence. Yet it is well known that an acre of ground in England produces more corn than in Ireland; from Mr. Young's calculation it appears that an acre of ground in England produces three quarters of wheat, whilst an acre in Ireland produces only two quarters, two bushels and three pecks, and other grain in proportion. One striking cause of the difference is the superior skill of the English in agriculture. Would it not be better for country-gentlemen to send their sons to England to learn this useful science, than to lay out considerable sums in getting them instructed in a language spoken two thousand years ago, or in horse-racing and back-gammon?

TRANSLATOR.

The large bay, called the river Kenmare, appears to advantage from this situation; the two peninsulas approximate about the middle and thus form a very safe harbour for vessels. No country in the world has better harbours than the south of Ireland. This made me reflect on the remarkable attention paid to the republicans, by placing two hundred of their officers at Dunmanaway, and from fifteen to eighteen hundred French soldiers at Kinsale, by which means they were sure of guides and of a reinforcement.

The moment I quitted Kenmare I got into the mountains again, they were not, however, of so wild an appearance as the former. When you become very tired of the sameness of this wild country, on getting through a narrow passage at the foot of Mangerton, you are on a sudden charmed with the prospect of Killarney. The impression which its numerous islands and well-cultivated banks made on me, can be compared only to the sensation of a poor prisoner suddenly transported from his
dungeon

dungeon to the light of the sun. I continued my journey very slowly, not knowing which to admire most the cloud-capt mountains covered with trees, the fine sheet of water at their feet, the islands, the peninsula which separates both lakes, or the charming country to the north.

I passed a week very agreeably at Lord Kenmare's, during which I was often on the lake: I shall venture to give a sketch of its beauties, which the most frigid observer could not but admire.

People generally go two miles from Killarney to the island of Ross, the largest in the lake and separated from the country by a narrow stream, over which there is a bridge. In this island is to be seen the castle of Prince O'Donoghue, to whom this country belonged in ancient times, and who, according to the inhabitants, rides on the lake a certain day of the year.

Going eastwards the peninsula of Muckrus offers itself to the view; it is one of
the

the finest places I have seen on account of the chequering of woods and plains, it meanders nearly about two miles.

The venerable ruins of the abbey inspire a sentiment of religious horror by no means unpleasing; the yew in the middle of it covers it entirely with its branches, and hardly admits the passage of a few rays of light which fall on the tombs and bones at the foot of it. The inhabitants believe that the rash mortal who would dare to cut it, or even to pierce it would inevitably perish that year. They pay great devotion to the saint of the place and come to do pilgrimage and penance, which here, and in the rest of Ireland, consists in going round the building a certain number of times, all the while reciting prayers.

They also inter their dead here, and bring them from a prodigious distance; they bury them only on the south and east sides. The north is looked on as the devil's side, and the west is preserved for children

children that die without being baptized, and for soldiers and strangers. They look on it as a great piece of impiety to carry off the remains of the coffins; there are two large vaults in the abbey quite full of them: the bones are left scattered about, wherever they were thrown by the grave-diggers, but nobody would touch them for the world. In a corner outside there is a tremendous heap of them. Although at the reformation the rich divided between them the plunder of the abbeys, they nowhere ventured to remove the grave-yard. It is among the ruins of the old church the peasants wish every where to be buried, and it impossible to dissuade them from it: it has often been tried here to make them bury their dead in another place, but without success. This would, however, be adviseable, for, besides that on the rock, there is hardly sod enough to cover the dead, the church-yard is so full of corpses that it would not be prudent to dig there for some time. This gives them no uneasiness, those who were buried a year or two ago must make room for those who die later,

ter, and in this hideous-looking vault I saw more than one skull still covered with hair.

Some years ago an old well-looking man came to reside in one of the old chambers of this abbey. He made a bed for himself with some of the boards of the coffin and placed it in one of the windows, the only place sheltered, he soon got a reputation for sanctity, the peasants brought him provisions, and the gentry invited him sometimes to their table, where he behaved like a person accustomed to good company. When asked the reason of his penance, he answered, "That he could never do enough for his sins." He was a handsome man, and once perceiving a lady looked attentively at him, "Take care," said he, "those eyes have done much harm." He lived about two years in this melancholy solitude, and at length disappeared. People have formed many conjectures, and invented several stories about him during his residence at Muc-russ, but they are probably the suggestions of fancy.

The

The peninsula of Mucrus divides the lake into two: that which it forms is small and adds to the beauty of the prospect by variety. From thence you follow the current of the river which comes from the upper lake. In a certain part of the mountain called the Eagle's-nest, because some eagles often fly over it, people amuse themselves with firing a cannon, the report of which is not re-echoed as is generally the case, but ceases for a time and then makes a noise like thunder. The banks of the river you sail up before you get to the upper lake are very picturesque; and the upper lake, surrounded by wild towering mountains, presents a striking contrast with the lower, the banks of which are highly improved. When you come down the river into the lower lake, you are taken to see Sullivan's cascade in the middle of the wood, you go from thence to Innisfallen, a charming island, where there was formerly an abbey; it belongs to Lord Kenmare, and when a person is so lucky as to be at one of these parties on the lake, which he and Lady Kenmare often make

up,

up, after admiring the beauties of nature, he cannot avoid paying homage to their politeness and hospitality.

There are some stags in the woods, and sometimes they start one from the mountain, who when closely pursued gets into the lake, where the dogs and boats follow him and drive him out of the islands where he flies for shelter. A deal of company come here from every part of Ireland, but remain only to see the lake. They would remain longer if there were any publick amusements or mineral-waters; the latter especially would be highly advantageous, and I believe there are few places better adapted to repair a shattered constitution. There is an excellent mineral-water in Lord Kenmare's park: unfortunately no son of Esculapius has hitherto taken it into his head to bring it into vogue: but this will happen sooner or later. The town is pretty enough, it appears new and is built in the form of a T.

Walking out one morning rather early, I heard dreadful groans and shrieks in a house. Attracted by curiosity I entered, and saw in a room about fifty women weeping over a poor old man, who died a couple of days before. Four of them in particular made more noise than the rest, tore their hair and often embraced the deceased. I remarked that in about a quarter of an hour they were tired, went into another room and were replaced by four others, who continued their shrieks until the others were recovered; these after swallowing a large glass of whiskey, to enable them to make more noise, resumed their places and the others went to refresh themselves.

These assemblies are called wakes, and every peasant that dies is sure of having his friends and acquaintances in his room crying, weeping, drinking his health and singing his praises extempore in Irish verses, from the day of his death to that of his burial. It is rather an expensive custom, with which, however, the poorest person could not decently dispense; the expense

penſe was greater formerly, for it appears from the Br̄chon laws, that the quantity of meat and drink was regulated according to the rank of the deceaſed, to prevent exceſs and hinder families from being ruined by vying with each other. This explains the answer a poor widow, who was reproached with not ſending for a phyſician, made. “Oh!” ſaid ſhe, “I thought “it a deal for a poor woman like me to “pay his funeral expenſes.” I think the poor woman was right; the phyſician is a kind of moralift to the rich, he prevails on them to moderate their paſſions, and to repair the ravages of exceſs by temperance; but of what uſe could his advice be to the poor who never commit exceſs, and to whom nourishing food would be the beſt remedy? If he recovered, the poor countryman muſt ſtarve himſelf to pay the phyſician, and if he died his wife would be at double expenſe.

I was witneſs to an odd ſcene ſome days after; hearing the church-bell ring I went to ſee the funeral paſs; it was a poor old

woman they were carrying to the grave: the coffin was as usual surrounded by a great number of women crying and singing the *ullulu* in chorus: the men seemed to look on with indifference; when the funeral arrived at the cross-road, an odd dispute arose between the husband and brother of the deceased; one of the roads led to the abbey of Mucrufs, the burying-place of the husband's family, and the other to Aghadoe that of the brother's: the latter insisted she should be carried his way, the husband was equally clamorous for the interment of his dearly beloved in *his* family-place; the friends of the deceased were each pulling her to their own side, but finding they did not succeed, agreed to lay down the coffin and decide it by a fair battle; the cudgels were already brandished in the air, when Mr. Herbert, minister of the parish and justice of the peace, who was with me, leaped into the crowd, caught two of the principal combatants by the collar, and after inquiring into the fray, decided that the husband had a right to do what he pleased with his wife
dead

dead or alive; he then let him go, but kept the brother, and the funeral went towards Mucruss. I remarked that neither the battle, nor the discussion which followed it, stopped the women who continued their *ullulu* as if nothing had happened. When I saw the justice of peace get into the crowd, I was sure he would get an unmerciful flogging, and got on a little wall to see the event; but I found I was mistaken, the peasants obeyed the magistrate and submitted immediately to his decision. This was certainly much better, but it appeared so curious to me that people should fight for a dead woman, that I was rather sorry the affair terminated so peaceably.

I went once to the top of Mangerton, from whence a great tract of country is seen, though it is not quite equal to the prospect of *all the kingdoms of the globe*; you see barren mountains covered with small lakes, that of Killarney appears a pretty sheet of water, in the midst of which the peninsula of Mucruss juts out. There is a little lake on the summit of Mangerton,

called *the devil's punch bowl*, out of which I drank to the health of the saint of the place, and to that of his children, viz. the nine tenths of the human race, particularly the pretty girls.

As this town is much frequented in summer, beggars come here from every part of the country; they build wretched huts on the side of the road, and teize passengers. This might be prevented by a house of industry, where they should be obliged to work.

It would not be difficult to join the lake with the sea, either by a canal from it to the bay of Kenmare, or by rendering navigable the river which flows from the lake into the bay of Dingle. The first method would be better, for the bay of Kenmare is safer than that of Dingle, which has a sandy bottom; either way they would have only seven or eight miles to make a canal, which would undoubtedly be very beneficial to the town of Killarney and the adjacent country.

On

On the road to Tralee I met a man who shewed me three castles which formerly belonged to three brothers, who had been masters of the country, and were turned out by the English, I asked him why they were turned out, "Because," said he, "they were not strong enough." This is an argument *ad hominem*.

Tralee is a pretty little town of some trade. The sea-coast from this place to Limerick was formerly the chief residence of the Danes, who have left many of these round towers called *Rath*, or *Lifs*, here: there are four of them at the distance of two hundred paces from each other, at the mouth of the river in Tralee-bay. This town is frequented in summer by bathers and people who come to drink the mineral-waters one or two miles off.

I went from thence to Ardfert to Mr. Dean Greaves's; where as usual I met with the delightful hospitality that soon makes me forget my fatigues. Ardfert was formerly a bishopric, but is now joined to that
of

of Limerick; there were formerly many ecclesiastical establishments here: the ruins of the old cathedral are the greatest object of curiosity; the air of this place is said to be very wholesome, which has induced a surgeon to choose it for his burying-place; he is alive yet, but his epitaph is engraved on his tomb as if he were dead.

In the church-yard of the cathedral there was formerly a round tower, which though apparently very stable, fell down about fifteen years ago: what is remarkable is, that instead of falling towards one side, as a person would naturally expect, all the stones fell inside and formed a great heap on the place where the tower stood before.

I went to see the remains of the franciscan abbey near Ardfert, where I met two of the handsomest and most amiable women in Ireland, Lady Glandore and Mrs. Woodcock, who had entered into the wicked resolution of retiring an entire year from the world. I know not if it was from so
good

good an example, but I never felt so much inclined to become a hermit.

At some distance is one of these holy fountains where the inhabitants make their rounds; this is a very celebrated one, and people come to it from a great distance. They pretend it cures every complaint; their devotion consists in going round it bare-footed seven or eight times praying, and kneeling each time before a black stone, which seems to have been a tombstone; they rub their hands very gravely to three death's heads on it: by dint of rubbing and kissing them, they are almost effaced. They then put the hand which they had rubbed to the stone on the part where they feel the pain, drink a large glass of water and wash their legs in the stream: they dip the children seven or eight times in the cold water. I often saw well-dressed people go through these ceremonies like the peasants. I saw even a very pretty girl kiss these ugly heads very devoutly; I could not help thinking I would have been a much better physician for her.

This

This fountain is very famous in the country, and even protestants, of whom there are but few here, when they have tried other remedies in vain, make their rounds here and imitate the country people. The greater number of the peasants, however, seemed to come rather from a fondness for company than for devotion; I asked one of them what the water was good for? "I do not know," answered he. And when I asked him why he had made his rounds? "To do like the rest," said he, "and to see the women." At these fountains in fact many marriages are made up. In vain does the parish-priest prohibit them from coming here; the people are so long accustomed to it that it would not be easy to prevail on them to lay it aside.

Nothing, indeed, can be more innocent than to walk about the well saying Oremuses, and then to take a glass of water; I am convinced that it might serve women by obliging them to take some exercise and to wash themselves: if they could be prevailed

prevailed on not to confine the ablution to the legs it would be still better. But in order to produce this effect, there should be separate fountains for the men and women, in which case they would be soon neglected. The only thing the priest can do is to keep order at these meetings, and to prevent any thing indecent from passing there; in this the parish-priest of this place has succeeded. The good people come on saturday morning, and conclude their penance at two o'clock; then the *cantien calle*, goes home with its *bonnie lassie*, *cracking* all the way.

They are all catholics here: they agree very well together, the people go to mass on fundays, and the minister preaches to his family, without either of them caring of what religion they are the rest of the week, except on paying or receiving tithes. I went on funday to the catholic chapel. The women there are always separated from the men, probably to prevent distractions. In the middle of the ceremony the priest made a long harangue in Irish;
in

in which he sent to all the devils in hell, those who might be base enough not to pay him his dues.

These priests have great influence over the people; they are in a great measure judges, and decide all disputes with astonishing precision. It would be dangerous to displease them or to refuse to pay their scanty pittance. Government knew their power, and yet have made enemies of them by ill-treatment. The right method of gaining over the people would be to gain over the priests. I am convinced that a dozen fat benefices in favour of catholic priests at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant would soon make them as supple, as courteous, and as studious of pleasing as their dearly-beloved brethren, the bishops and ministers of the protestant church.

The churches are built from east to west; so that when the priest is at the altar, he faces the east. It is odd that this is universally the custom in Europe, even in the lutheran churches, though few have remarked it. I recollect very well that all the old ones are
built

built so in France, and that I never had remarked it : it is true the new ones are built either way, but, however, they mostly have the door towards the west, and the altar towards the east. This custom was universally introduced long before the establishment of christianity, and appears to have been adopted by most nations. The reason assigned for it is, that the christian religion has originated to the east of Europe, and that it is a mark of respect due to the theatre of its miracles. In this case christians in Persia should face the west. This seems to be equivalent to the reason mahometans assign for turning also towards the east, on account of Mecca the city of their prophet. Though I am not certain as to the real cause, I do not think it to be this, I am rather inclined to look on it as an universal homage paid to the rising sun.

The neighbourhood of the low sandy bay of Ballyheigh induces some company to come to Ardfert, for the purpose of bathing in the sea. In the middle of the bay is a rock on which even moss does not grow,

and which, however, an adventurer from this country settled as a dowry on a rich wife he got, and valued at two thousand a year. Walking along the coast through a country thinly inhabited, but where a person makes out his way by means of *go whil an flee a*, I arrived at the mouth of the Shannon.

This is the largest river in Ireland: the inhabitants entertain a degree of veneration for it, of which it seems worthy: nobody is esteemed in this country who has not taken a dip in it, and as I wish to conform to the manners of the country I am in, this was my first operation. It is seven or eight miles broad at the mouth. On the banks are very high rocks, and deep caverns, into which the waves break with astonishing fury. At some distance on a rock separate from the others are ruins of fortifications, and even of a little town; the streets and foundations of houses may be distinguished; the houses do not seem to have been larger than cabins, though the fortifications were extensive.

Continuing

Continuing my journey along the coast, I passed the Cushin which falls into the Shannon; it rises at the foot of a hill, at the other side of which the Black-water rises and falls into St. George's channel at Youghal. No country in the world is better adapted for commerce than this, and no where could industry be more successfully employed in opening a communication by canals.

When the royal canal is finished, by which the Liffy will be joined to the Shannon, I believe it would be very advantageous to join the Black-water with the Cushin, and to render them navigable. They may easily join the Black-water with the Suire, and even with the Lee. Ireland would then have an inland navigation of upwards of five hundred miles, which would establish a communication between the four principal cities of the south, Dublin, Limerick, Cork and Waterford; even Drogheda may be joined with them by this means, as the Boyne may be rendered navigable for boats as far as the royal canal.

CHAP. VI.

LIMERICK.... KILLALOE.... THE HOLY
FOUNTAIN.

AT some distance from the ferry over the Cushin, a monstrous large tree appears covered all over with leaves; curiosity made me go to examine it, and I found it was one of those round towers covered with ivy from top to bottom. There were probably some churches here, but there are no remains of them at present. Within three miles of Tarbot I went to see the ruins of a large abbey, I found many people there doing penance bare-footed. You have a view from it of the holy island in the middle of the Shannon. There were formerly eleven churches here, of which the ruins alone remain. There is also one of these round towers, which appears well at a distance. At Tarbot there are two batteries in a good situation over the narrowest part of the Shannon; they defend

defend the Shannon particularly, as the opposite coast is shallow, and vessels must come within five hundred paces of the cannon, which are very well placed and in good order.

Being fatigued after my long walk, I stopped at Glin, a little village from which its landlord derives his title of knight; there are only four in Ireland who have this privilege, and they are all in this country. This title is not of English origin; it was bestowed by the sovereign on four heroes, from whom the present knights are descended.

I inquired from a fat priest I met where I could get a lodging; he took me into a poor ale-house, which he told me was the only inn in the place and a very good one. I passed the night defending myself against the animals who seemed to consider me as their prey; as soon as day began to dawn, I saw a bloody scene; I looked as if I had come from a battle, and I really had. Luckily the sea was near, I drowned my

troublesome guests in it. When I was coming away I perceived the priest who was coming for the same purpose; I told him my mishap, but he seemed to consider it as a thing of course, and burst out laughing. . . . I was going to pitch him to h—ll, but I recollected myself, and only wished him several such nights for the good of his soul. I set out and perceiving a handsome inn at the entrance of the village, I was tempted to go back and give the priest a scolding; however I preferred continuing my journey. I perceived on a hill the ruins of an old castle, which held out a siege against Queen Elizabeth; a great part of the fortifications remain still entire. In the neighbourhood were also many fortified camps or *Raths*. I had already walked ten miles and been awake since three in the morning; I began to be very hungry, and there was no inn; I saw a handsome house in the neighbourhood; I asked the owner's name; *John Evans*, I was told.

I had often reflected that though the poor are hospitable and offer every thing they

they have to the weary traveller, probably if he went to a gentleman's house he would not get a glass of water. Behold, thought I, an excellent opportunity of making the experiment.

I went to the house; Mr. John Evans came out to me; "Sir," said I, "I have not the honour of being known to you, and I have no letter for you; but I can assure you that I am very hungry, and that you will very much oblige me by giving me something to eat." "Faith," answered he, "you could not come in better time, for breakfast is on the table." He then took me into his house, where I found every thing I could wish for. I was glad to find myself deceived in my opinion, but for fear of sometimes guessing right, I resolved not to repeat the experiment.

Taking a ramble then of eight or ten miles across the country, I arrived at Newcastle, where I was kindly received by Mr. Locke and his brother, who is minister in the town: it is situated in a long fertile valley,

ley, which is separated from the Black-water only by a little height. The castle belonged formerly to the Templars, and must have been a very extensive building; it belongs at present to Lord Courtenay.

If all the rich Englishmen who possess estates in this country had sense enough to entrust the management of them to men of this kind, their tenants would have no great reason to complain of their absence. Mr. Locke has established linen manufactories, in which children of five or six years old are employed. Undoubtedly these establishments cannot at present support themselves, but they are productive of such advantage to the country, that they cannot receive too much encouragement, and the proprietor will find himself indemnified for his expense by the spirit of industry he will by this means propagate among the peasantry.

The price of daily labour in this country is only five or six-pence; people generally answer this observation by remark-
ing

ing that the price of provisions is in proportion; but it is false, for except potatoes, every thing is as dear as in England; it is true the peasants live entirely on potatoes, and drink water or butter-milk after them; but why could not the English live in the same manner? Yet if any person proposed such a plan to the peasants in England, he would be soon left without workmen. A great number of Irish peasants know that they would get two shillings in England, for what they get only six-pence in Ireland. Several of them go to England to get work, and those very persons who are accused of laziness at home, are very industrious abroad: they observe even the same degree of sobriety to which they are accustomed in their own country, (and this by the bye is rather meritorious in England) and when they have amassed a little money they return home.

I know that however well-disposed an individual may be, he could not increase the price of labour without drawing on himself

himself the resentment of his neighbours, but by encouraging industry, labour will become more scarce and consequently dearer.

From Newcastle to Limerick the country is very fine, and beyond dispute the most fertile in Ireland; near Rathkeal I went to visit three or four villages inhabited by the descendants of a German colony from the Palatinate, whom the proprietor established here about eighty years ago. They have intermarried with each other, and thus preserved their original customs: when I passed through this country only one of the original adventurers was alive. They certainly obtained good conditions; each family got ground for a house and garden, besides some acres of land at a very low price. The rich and fertile country they inhabit was a desert before their arrival; their industry is still remarkable, their ground is certainly better cultivated than that of the natives, and their houses, built after the manner of their country, are so neat and so clean that

that they appear like palaces compared with the cabins of the poor Irish. The women wear still the large straw hat and short petticoat of the Palatinate. The natives hated them cordially in the beginning, and are jealous of their prosperity at present; this animosity does not induce them to imitate them and to endeavour to equal or even surpass these strangers in industry. The inevitable consequence will be that these Palatines will become Irishmen like their neighbours.*

Passing on through the long town of Rathkeal, I went to Adair where I was kindly received by Sir Richard Quin.—The town of Adair consisted formerly of colleges and other ecclesiastical establishments; the ruins of many large abbeys are

* It is not barely sufficient to introduce improvements of any kind among a people; these improvements must be suited to the degree of civilization they have arrived at; the human mind is progressive in its attainments; it cannot be ripened prematurely, like plants in a hot-bed. The introduction of foreign colonies

are still visible; four or five miles farther on at Skelton there are also the ruins of several abbeys, probably the largest in this country.

The ruins in the west exhibit a style of architecture quite different from those in the east, which are generally very small, whilst

colonies is, on this account, not always attended with the advantages it seems to promise; if these strangers are much superior to the natives in industry and arts, they will be inclined to stigmatize them as barbarians, and to look down on them with contempt: the consequence will be a mutual animosity, which will impede the civilization of the latter, and, perhaps, prevent them even from arriving at the degree of improvement they otherwise would. A greater advantage would accrue by accustoming the natives to habits of industry, and inspiring them with a relish for the comforts and conveniences of life. Industry and this degree of taste would mutually react; the former, by increasing their means, would enable them to gratify the suggestions of the latter; and their wants, increased by gratification, would afford fresh inducements to exertion.

TRANSLATOR.

whilst the former resemble in size and structure the gothic churches on the continent.

When I reflected on the prodigious number of abbeys and churches which must have been formerly in this country, I was inclined to believe that the entire island belonged formerly to the church, for if the English clergy turned their possessions to advantage, I believe they are in fact masters of half the country. Their mode of letting their lands alone prevents them: no incumbent can give a longer lease than twenty one years, but even this appears a long time to a person anxious to live well, or lay up some provision for his family. To remedy this the bishop, or any person in possession of a benefice, annually renews his lease with his tenant, on condition of the latter paying him a sum of money to answer his present exigencies. Every ecclesiastic then who enters into the possession of a benefice is sure to find the lease renewed from the year before, and must consequently follow the same plan.

I am sure there are bishoprics let at the tenth part of their real value, and which on a renewal of the lease, would produce fifty, sixty, or even a hundred thousand a year. . . . *Thus the Lord taketh care of his servants.*

I journeyed on towards Limerick, and in my way saw a wake; it was on sunday and the women do not bawl out so loud that day; but what was remarkable was that the corpse was on a table, and the house was full as it could hold of women squatted on the floor. The men, to the number of two hundred, were on the road both on foot and on horseback, and several were at the next ale-house, waiting with patience the dead man's departure.

It was the time of the races at Limerick, and the duelling season: there was great confusion; the town was full of racers and idlers; every thing was topsy turvy; the workmen were doing nothing but looking at the horses: at one part of the course there were upwards of twenty thousand persons,

persons, and so considerable a number formed a species of amphitheatre on a hill ; what made the people assemble in such crowds was that three jockies were to be peers, or rather I mistake the matter, three peers were to be jockies ; one is as bad as the other.

Some bucks * from Cork and Youghal came to the races, with the laudable intention of shooting some of the people of Limerick ; they went about asking every person they met ; “ Do you want powder “ and ball, we will give you some ? ” —

T 2

During

* The race of bucks seems peculiar to Ireland ; it has undoubtedly originated from the propensity to repine and aversion to industry, which formerly distinguished our ancestors. These *heros* imagine they cannot more effectually testify their respect for the memory of their forefathers, than by consuming their days in idleness, or in mischievous pranks ; and as the age of chivalry and tournaments is gone, their exploits are limited to picking quarrels with the more peaceable part of the community, or skirmishing at taverns with the waiters. Having nothing to lose

During the week the races held, there were eight duels fought; an officer of the Irish Brigade was killed: at length, however, the Chancellor began to make inquiries about these gentlemen, and they thought proper to decamp.

The races were over at last, luckily for the country, for if they had continued three weeks, the harvest would not have been gathered. Limerick is famous for the long siege it held out against William, in favour of his unfortunate father-in-law;

lose but their lives, which become of little value when the taylor and inn-keeper refuse them credit, they are all professed duellists, and rigid observers of the laws of honour. "It is disgusting," says Doctor Crumpe, in his essay on the best method of providing employment for the poor, "to see such beings gaming at a hazard-table, bustling at a horse-race, quarrelling over their claret, or hallooing after a fox, arrayed, perhaps, in an equipage they have neither inclination nor ability to pay for. Let us turn from the picture—the only satisfaction attendant on its examination is, that the species are daily diminishing. May they speedily be extinct."

TRANSLATOR.

law; and also for the capitulation which the besieged made for the whole island; this capitulation was strictly observed during William's life; but, for no other possible reason but to discourage the religion of the mass of the people, and to oblige them to follow the established one, it was infringed in the reign of Queen Anne; the priests were hanged for saying mass, and every person convicted of being present at this ceremony, was severely punished. I should add that the rigour of the laws was such as to prevent their execution; even the judges contrived to evade them,* they were seldom or, perhaps, never executed: but the son, brother, or even a distant relation of a catholic might, by turning protestant, forcibly seize on his property. These cruel laws have been in

T 3

force

* I have been told that a witness in a prosecution of this kind, having sworn that he saw the prisoner at mass, was asked by the judge if he knew what mass was? Not being able to tell, Wretch, said the judge, how can you swear to a thing about which you know nothing? And he discharged the prisoner.

force near eighty years; and it is only within these fourteen or fifteen years they have felt the necessity of mitigating the laws of the country so that the inhabitants could endure them. In this short space of time Ireland has attained a surprising degree of prosperity, which gives room to hope that in a few years it will rival the country which held it in subjection, and this would be equally advantageous to both countries.

The new town of Limerick is very pretty and regular, but the old one is equally ugly and dirty; a stranger could not suppose that it contains upwards of fifty thousand inhabitants, the number they are estimated at.

I was extremely well-pleased at being visited by two amiable bankers here, who were kind enough to invite me to dine with them four or five days after. As I have no opportunity of enabling these gentlemen to make money, and as this is the only thing they think about, I am very seldom

feldom a favourite with them; I am on this account more grateful when they shew me any attention than to other people. In a Scotch company to which I was introduced, I met Mr. A banker at Edinburgh, who learning my intention of spending the winter in that city, gave me his address, and begged of me to call to see him. I have carefully kept his card, and made it travel, I am sure, more than twelve hundred miles; and when I had finished my journey I presented it to him; he received it with the same hospitality a debtor shews his creditor, but as he did not fear the bailiff, he paid no attention to it.

I met a gentleman here who has invented a new method of cultivating potatoes.* It consists in cutting off the shoots in
spring,

* This method was, I believe, practised in England before Doctor Maunfell published his account of it. Potatoes constitute the diet of the majority of the people of Ireland, and are at present sown in
greater

spring and planting them: the potatoes grow as well from them as from the root itself, and those, from which the shoots have been cut, may at least serve to feed pigs. This worthy gentleman, hearing I intended to write an account of my tour, gave me the following sketch of his method, which I will insert, hoping it may be of some utility: “ In

greater plenty in England and France than they hitherto have been. This has induced chemists and experimental farmers to pay great attention to this root. Doctor Pearson has chemically analysed it, and has found that the farina or meal of the potatoe contains more than half its weight of starch, a proportion, in his opinion, equal to that found in other kinds of meal. Now as starch is the principal, and really nutritive ingredient of meal, he justly concludes that potatoes afford as much nourishment as wheat.

There is not, he thinks, any reason to doubt that potatoe-meal may be used for preparing different kinds of starch, distinguished by the names of sago, tapioca, vermicelli, macaroni, salep, common starch, and serve for infinitely ingenious compositions of cookery, as puddings, biscuits and pastes. The art of fermenting potatoe-meal into bread, in place of wheat,

“ In Limerick the Rev. Doctor Maunfell,
“ about three years ago, made the most
“ useful discovery in agriculture that ever
“ was made, and reduced the culture to
“ a certain system, that is, the producing
“ potatoes from the shoots, that heretofore
“ had been thrown away as of no kind
“ of value; this discovery promises fair
“ for

wheat, has not been yet discovered; but excellent bread can be made by a mixture of three parts, or, perhaps, two parts of meal of wheat, and one of potatoe-meal; or by a mixture of due proportions of the root itself and wheat-meal. The most simple, however, and profitable mode of using it is by boiling.

In the journal of the lyceum at Paris there is an account of a machine for granulating potatoes like rice; this may be preserved and ground in mills when wanted, and the powder employed for thickening broths, &c. Ten pounds of this powder mixed with an equal quantity of flour make thirty-five pounds of bread.

Among the papers of the Bath society there is an account of some useful experiments on potatoes.—Mr. Wimpey selected a quantity of very large and fine ones; one half of these he planted whole, and the
the

“ for feeding the lower orders of the people at a very cheap rate, when the culture comes to be in general practice; this gentleman, I am informed, has taken great pains to disseminate the culture, and deserves great credit from the publick, for the very distinguished manner in which he has conveyed his discoveries to the world.”

As I have spoken so much about potatoes, I think I should mention an excellent nut which I saw here for the first time,
and

the others were cut into pieces of a moderate size. An exact account of each was kept at taking up, and it appeared that the produce *per* acre was much the same in both cases; but as the cut potatoes planted nearly four times the ground that the whole ones did, it is plain they deserved the preference.

The same gentleman mentions that he was informed that some cottagers pared their potatoes, eat the fleshy part, and planted the rinds only, and that they got as large crops and of as good a kind as by any method whatsoever. This deserves a trial.

TRANSLATOR.

and is called pig's nut; it is indeed as easy for pigs to get at them, as at truffles in Languedoc. The root is as large as a filbert and as well-tasted. Children amuse themselves with digging for them in meadows, and eat them raw: it is possible they might be improved by culture, and be rendered a wholesome and agreeable article of diet, and on that account I mention them.

The Shannon is navigable only as far as Limerick; above this city* there are rocks and cascades over which a board could scarcely float. To remedy this defect

* About a hundred years ago it appears that Limerick was superior to Cork in extent and population. The cities of Ireland were then classed in the following order, in proportion to their importance; Dublin, Galway, Waterford, Limerick, Cork and Londonderry. It appears from every account that at present the extent and population of Cork are to those of Limerick as two to one. The women of Limerick are more celebrated for their beauty than the men for their understanding. Among many proofs

fect they have dug canals between the parts of the river where there is water enough for a boat; one of these, a mile in length, goes to Limerick; in this short space

proofs that fame has not done them any injustice in her report of the state of the latter, the following occurrence may be mentioned. During the late unhappy disturbances in this country, a Mr. Arthur was tried by a court-martial, at Limerick, and found guilty of treasonable practices; he was sentenced to fourteen years transportation to Botany-Bay. A committee, which it seems regulates the police of the coffee-house of that city, not thinking his sentence sufficiently severe, banished him by a solemn decree from the *Limerick Tontine coffee-house*; thus aggravating the punishment of being transported to the remotest part of the globe, by a privation of the attic wit and delicious beverage daily distributed at the Tontine coffee-house. The sentence of the court-martial was afterwards reversed, on its being proved that the principal witness against Mr. Arthur had perjured himself; but the committee of the Tontine coffee-house, like fate, immutable in its decrees, did not annul the awful sentence of exclusion. Did their high mightinesses of the committee imagine that Botany-Bay being in New-Holland, must be near the Texel, and consequently that the unfortunate gentleman

space the water falls near thirty feet; the boats cannot get up through the sluices but at high tide, at which time the water rises ten or twelve feet, though the city is sixty miles from the mouth of the river. One or two miles higher up is a canal which joins the river seven or eight miles off near Castle-Connell, where I went through a road probably rather too wide, and where I was received by Mr. Bruce, to whom the adjacent country belongs.

My journey through the country was very pleasant; if I could have leaped over

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the

tleman who had been banished, might not have been able to resist the allurements of their conversation, and consequently returned from transportation to enjoy it at the risk of his neck? But long after the committee of the Tontine coffee-house and its blunders shall have been buried in oblivion, Limerick may boast of Doctor Crumpe, author of an inestimable essay on the best method of finding employment for the poor; a work which proves that the soil of Ireland may produce men of genius, though they must look elsewhere for encouragement.

TRANSLATOR.

the cities I would have done it; they are too ceremonious in cities, and though a little ceremony may be sometimes agreeable, it was by no means so to a pilgrim like me. I should, however, consider myself ungrateful if I did not mention the kind reception I met with from Dean Crosby; father to the handsome woman I met, like Young, among the tomb-stones. General Walsh also, seeing that I could find no lodging on account of the races, was so good as to give me a bed at his house.

I was obliged to renew my wardrobe at Limerick: it consisted only as when I had left Dublin, of my coat and what I could stuff into a pair of silk stockings after cutting off the feet. Although my luggage was not very cumbersome I wanted for nothing, and was able to appear in company well dressed enough. For the information of future travellers, I shall give an account of my baggage; a powder-bag made with a woman's glove, a razor, some thread, needles, scissors, a comb kept in a pair of dancing pumps, a pair of silk stockings,

stockings, a pair of breeches fine enough to be rolled into a lump as big as a man's fist: two very fine shirts, three cravats, three handkerchiefs, and my travelling dress. All these were divided into three bundles; viz. the two silk stockings which served for bags, and another bundle in which my shoes were. I had six pockets in my coat to keep all this luggage, when I arrived at a genteel house, so that nothing was visible: as it would have been troublesome on a road, I put my three bundles in a handkerchief and carried them on the top of my cane-sword, on which I had an umbrella, which excited curiosity every where and made the girls laugh, though I do not know for what. My other pockets were filled with my letters, pocket-book, &c.

The persons at whose house I visited, and from whom I received offers of clean linen, which I refused, were surprised to see me enter the parlour powdered, with my white stockings &c. on, as if I travel-

led at my ease in a coach with some trunks and a complete wardrobe.

Well, my dear Mr. Sterne, what do you think of my wardrobe, with which I travelled six long months, and was admitted into the genteelst families? I think my portmanteau at least as good as yours.

Castle-Connell is a charming place on the bank of the Shannon, which appears like a torrent here in the midst of rocks; the beauty of the place and the mineral-waters attract a great number of idlers from Limerick, who come to pass the summer in this village and to drink a glass of water every morning. The strangers who frequent the place draw after them a great number of beggars, who are more numerous here than in the rest of Ireland. It is an odd but a very just remark that the richer the country is in Ireland, the greater the number of beggars, undoubtedly because the people are poorer and the price of labour less; I believe this proceeds from these vultures called tenants, under-
tenants

tenants and those who are still under them, who do not think it worth their while to confine themselves to bogs and mountains.

The wretchedness of the peasantry * in Ireland is generally attributed to the manner in which lands are set; a rich man,
u 3 unwilling

* The intermediate tenants between the proprietor and occupier of the soil are seldom so numerous as here stated; in other respects the picture is not exaggerated: the impolicy of the manner of setting ground generally practised in Ireland is undoubted.

The most oppressive of the class of middlemen are there known by the name of land-sharks, a term highly expressive of their singular rapacity. The land-shark makes himself fully acquainted with the value, extent, lease, and rent of every farm for several miles around him; and knows to a farthing the profit he may derive by taking them and setting them again to cottiers. When a farm is to be set, he inquires into the nature of the proposals that have been made or are likely to be made for it, and prepares himself accordingly. As the resident's claim to a preference is seldom attended to, the land-shark finds little difficulty in making sure of the farm. A trifling rise in the rent above the other proposals, a
douceur

unwilling to be at any trouble, sets a large tract of country to one man, who does not intend to cultivate it himself, but to let it out to three or four others; those, *who* have large shares, farm them to about a score, who again set them to about a hundred

douceur to the agent, or proprietor's wife, or a present of a hound or horse to the proprietor himself, are in general sufficient to decide the matter in his favour.

Yet the land-shark seldom gets the ground for a less rent than the cultivator should pay, if he were to be allowed the just reward of his labour and capital from the produce of the ground. The portion of the produce which should purchase for him and his family the comforts and conveniences of life, or be laid up as a provision for his family, or expended in the improvements of the ground, is what forms the middleman's profit. In this manner, by taking a number of farms and setting them again, the middleman squeezes from the hard-earnings of the wretched cultivators an annual income, which enables him to ape the vices and follies of his superiors.— Thus are the most useful men in society subjected to the most glaring oppression, to support in idleness and extravagance the most idle, rapacious, and unprofitable

dred snug peasants, who give them at an exorbitant price to about a thousand poor labourers, whom necessity obliges to take their scanty portion at a price far beyond its real value. They plant the greater part of it with potatoes, which serve to feed them

profitable members of the state: and the proprietor is deprived of the additional income which would accrue to him at the close of the lease, from the increased fertility which the ground would derive from a proper attention to its improvement.

If these truths were fully impressed upon the minds of the proprietors, I flatter myself it would not be difficult to induce them to rescue the cultivators from the fangs of these harpies; by entering into a solemn resolution not to set their lands in future to any but resident tenants, at such a rent as after defraying the necessary expenses of the farm, and supporting the people, necessary for its cultivation, in comfort and cleanliness, would enable the farmer to lay up some provision for his family. By such a change of system the proprietors would receive as much rent from the cultivators as from the middleman; and with the well-grounded hope of being remunerated at the end of the lease, the tenant would feel himself encouraged to improve the farm. We should hear no more complaints

them and to fatten a pig and some poultry with which they pay their rent. It may be easily perceived that the original proprietor does not receive the one third of what the labourers pay, and that the rest goes into the pockets of these sub-landlords.

I must

plaints of the idleness and profligacy of the Irish husbandman. The time which every farmer has to spare after laying in the harvest and tilling the ground, would be employed in making fences, clearing ground, drainings, and other modes of improvement, instead of lounging away those precious moments in unprofitable indolence.

At present the miserable resident is deprived of every inducement to extraordinary exertions of industry; the fruits of his labour would be transferred to a stranger, and the very circumstance of his having thriven on the farm would be made the pretext for demanding an exorbitant rise in the rent. Under such circumstances is it wonderful, that at the expiration of a lease the farm should exhibit every mark of ruin; that the fences should be trampled down, that the houses should not protect the miserable inhabitants from the fury of the elements, and the soil be exhausted by frequent crops without manure;

I must mention that many proprietors have been struck with these abuses, and I know that many had combined in the north and resolved to set their lands to the labourers only without admitting any intermediate agents; but what was the consequence?

nure; in short, that MAN, formed in the image of the Deity, and possessing a portion of divine spirit, should be sunk nearly to a level with the brutes, which live under the same roof with him, and are nourished with the same food?

If the liberal policy were adopted, which we have ventured to recommend, the middleman may think himself aggrieved, but without justice. His absurd claims to a station in life to which he has no just pretensions, are not to be put in competition with the happiness of numbers. That he may be received into the society of the great, he must learn to cringe and flatter, which is the price always expected by them for condescending to keep company with their inferiors: he acquires a meanness and servility of manners, and loses the bold and manly features which characterize the freeman, which are but ill-exchanged for the smile of a great man, or the forced servility of an ignorant peasantry. Restore him to his natural station in society, and he will recover his independence.

sequence? The labourers being no longer dunned did not pay their rents, and recourse was had again to the old method. I am no great farmer, but I think there is a remedy for all this without running the dangers of either plan.

Many

dependence. What middleman is equal in respectability to an English Yeoman?

The arguments which we have hitherto used, are principally founded on the pecuniary advantages which would result to the proprietors from the adoption of our plan, convinced, that such arguments are in general the most effectual. But are there not some favoured individuals among the rich and powerful, who will welcome the glorious opportunity of rescuing such numbers from the worst species of oppression, and who may please themselves with the reflection, that from men little better than savages, they may in time behold a rich, an independant and happy tenantry rising around them, and hailing them as their benefactors?

For a further account of middlemen, and other subjects intimately connected with the prosperity of Ireland, we beg leave to refer to the excellent work of our countryman, Doctor Crumpe, On the employment of the people.

TRANSLATOR.

Many persons near Castle-Connell (among others the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Bruce) by employing many workmen, have increased the price of labour: a rich man who wishes to serve his country cannot lay out his money to more advantage. I have often heard the peasantry reproached with laziness and drunkenness; but when a person must necessarily starve, is it not better for him remain idle, as his labour would not preserve him from it? In this situation is it not also very natural to quaff a little of Lethe in order to forget his misery? If the poor were convinced that labour would improve their situation, they would soon lay aside the apathy and indifference which proceed from despair. Mr. Bruce has built at his own expence a great number of neat houses for his peasants, and these poor people, so unjustly accused by the avaricious and the unfeeling, appear to be very grateful; when he wants workmen he always finds them, when others cannot get them; I have been assured also that his labourers do not take the same price from him which they do from others.

The

The inhabitants of Castle-Connell had subscribed to build a catholic chapel; I know not what fault the parish-priest had committed, but the catholic bishop of Killaloe suspended him, and the church remained half built, and without a roof. Mass was, however, celebrated there in a corner covered with some boards; the people came as usual, but the parishioners were resolved not to finish the chapel until their favourite priest was restored.

After traversing the bogs which surround this village, I arrived at Brian's-bridge. I went on some miles farther to Glanmore, where I passed a few days at Mr. Thomas Arthur's; his house is at the bottom of a little valley tolerably fertile and surrounded by mountains covered with turf. I saw here some of these large skeletons of the animals called moss or mouse-deer in this country.

The race is so long extinct in Ireland, that neither history nor tradition makes any mention of them. They are of the deer-kind,

kind, but from their horns and bones which have been found in bogs, they must have been at least thrice as large as our deer. These horns are generally seven or eight feet high; some have been found upwards of ten; the bones of their legs are twice as thick and thrice as long as those of an ox.

It is very odd that there is no tradition concerning the existence of this animal in Ireland; it is equally so that there are no remains of it on the continent. Did nature intend to place it in an island where it would have been imprisoned? It does not appear to have inhabited any other part of the globe except North America, where there is a small number of a species of them, much smaller than that which has been found in Ireland.

In quality of traveller I may make reflections, and in quality of writer I have a right to favour the publick with them.—When I shall have walked some hundred miles more, I will get to a place where I shall beg leave to spin out some learned conjectures on the traditions of this coun-

try. At present, I believe, I had better say nothing.

I return to Brian's-bridge; after dipping myself in the Shannon, to render the river-god propitious, I sailed up the river in a little boat, for which my umbrella served as a sail. The water was charming, very calm and appeared very deep, but we soon came to a waterfall and were obliged to land: they were then digging a canal to join the two parts of the river that are navigable; returning in the boat we travelled about ten miles and were once more obliged to land, and even leave the boat there; in this place they are digging a canal about a mile long, which goes to the superb palace of the Bishop of Killaloe: there is a large cascade there, and in the space of fifty feet the water falls fourteen or fifteen in the midst of large stones; these are the obstructions in the river which form lakes; this one forms, near Killaloe, a large lake near thirty miles long and twelve or fifteen broad; though it has many handsome prospects, yet, like all the Irish lakes, it resembles an inundation,

tion, and the more so on account of the islands. A company had offered to dry it up, provided the proprietors of the banks would give them half the land they would by this means procure; some objections were made to this, and the affair was dropped: this company had calculated that by deepening the bed of the river twelve feet, they would dry fourteen thousand acres of land; the expense of doing this would have amounted to upwards of twenty thousand pounds, but this would not be purchasing seven thousand acres too dear; it is probable, however, that the soil would not produce much the first years, and that the one third of it would be sandy and unfit for cultivation. The original proprietors are generally jealous of a company that would execute such plans, and would prefer having their land covered with water to sharing it with them; but both parties might be reconciled by obliging every proprietor to pay four or five pounds an acre, whether the ground was good or bad, which the company would have dried at their own expense and risk.

The little town of Killaloe is an ugly place; the cathedral is a large well-looking building; the stone-bridge over this part of the Shannon has eighteen arches, but they are small, and if the bridge was to be rebuilt, I believe it were better build only nine or ten arches in the modern stile. I went to the minister's house, a superb building, at a short distance from the town, on a hill which commands Lough-Derg: from this eminence you have a fine prospect of this sheet of water, whose banks are elevated and very much improved. There is a bay seven or eight miles long, which can be seen only by ascending to the summit of a high mountain in the neighbourhood; from thence you discover the Shannon meandering in the plain as far as Limerick, and the place where it falls into the lake near Portumna, besides the villages on its banks, the principal of which is Nenagh; the road which leads to the silver mines they are working, about seven miles from Killaloe, is also visible from thence.

It

It is melancholy to see no appearance of industry any where about : there is not a single manufactory : the peasants have no way of earning bread but by tilling the ground ; but let us have patience ; a nation requires some time to be roused from its lethargy ; it is only fourteen years since the chains of Ireland have been broken ; already they are planning how to surmount the numerous obstacles which prevent the Shannon from being navigable ; they have partly succeeded in many places by canals : it is at present navigable from the sea to the place where it joins the great canal, thirty miles beyond Portumna.— The great canal itself will be finished in a few years : and then a communication will be opened across Ireland between both seas, from Dublin to Limerick, and industry will flourish in proportion to the facility of disposing of its productions.

They have not stopped at this ; I saw many maps of the Shannon, in which the canals of communication are marked between the upper lakes, from that of Derg to Lough-Allen beyond Leitrim, a distance

of more than two hundred Irish miles; I do not see why they should not try to join Lough-Lane, the last or rather the first lake of the Shannon, with lake Gilty which falls into the sea at Sligo: the distance between both is only five or six miles, there are hills, it is true, between them, but not so high as might be expected near the source of a river, which rises within fifteen or sixteen miles of the sea, and traverses Ireland in a course of almost two hundred and fifty miles, nearly in the same direction as the Severn in England.

It must, however, be confessed that the navigation of the great lakes in its course must be very difficult for common boats; these lakes are liable to tempests which would sink the strongest boat. The only way to remedy this is to drain them; some money and inclination would effect this, and would add two hundred thousand acres to Ireland.

The first steps necessary to civilize a country are to cut down woods, to dry up marshes, to render the rivers navigable, to drain.

drain lakes the natives have succeeded very well in the first, but have only begun to reflect on the other points.

Near Killaloe is one of the round towers so common in Ireland: this is called O'Bryan's palace: tradition mentions that O'Bryan Boroimhe, who defeated the Danes at Clontarf, and perished in the battle, resided here; it is very well situated for defence at the place where the river flows out of the lake; this fort is not so extensive as others I have seen, but the breast-work is higher and the fossé deeper; I do not conceive what kind of a palace or even of a habitation could be built there, except a wooden house or tents.

I went along the western bank of Lough-Derg, and accosted an honest *attorney*, who was going to levy contributions on the adjacent country; he shewed me, at some distance from the bank, a square tower on a rock; some bold smugglers had established a distillery there to avoid paying taxes; they fortified themselves, and were provided with arms; no revenue-officer would

would venture his precious life against these courageous friends of the *creature*. Government was obliged to send troops and artillery against them, but they were near the lake, and besides it was not the intention of government to put them to the sword; they were blockaded, stood a fortnight's siege and then surrendered on honourable terms.

I passed that day at Mr. T. Grady's of Tomgrany, a pretty village at the extremity of the bay I spoke of; from it may be seen many islands in the lake, one in particular called holy island, on which is a very high round tower; there were formerly seven churches there too; the inhabitants come to make their rounds about the ruins; the catholics have taken possession of the grave-yard, and do not permit any protestant to deposit his bones there. A rich man of this parish threatened to turn a labourer out of it. . . . "Oh! "very fine," said the peasant, "I have "more privileges in this parish than you, "for you cannot deprive me of six feet "in the holy island, and you would not "get an inch there with all your wealth."

Passing through the ruins of Mount-Shannon, I went to Meelick to Mr. Thomas Burke's; near his house are the ruins of an abbey still contemplated with veneration; near the chapel is a curious kind of cell, in which a man can scarcely turn about; it appears to have been a confessional. Over the tomb is a square hollow stone full of rain, and which is said to possess the virtue of curing corns what a charming thing it is to travel in Ireland! I hope to be cured of all my complaints when my tour is finished. The banks of this lake were formerly covered with trees, which have been lately felled, and the country now appears naked and barren.

Near Woodfort the face of the country begins to mend, and is very fine near Abby, on the borders of Munster and Connaught. There was an abbey there, of which the church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It was a holiday, and a great number of people were assembled: these are the only ruins the inhabitants have
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turned to any advantage, to avoid the trouble of building a new chapel. The catholics have lately got permission to use the two chapels on the sides where the roof is still entire; the wretchedness of these chapels and of those who frequent them is beyond description. There were then two or three confessors in the grave-yard employed in hearing confessions: they were sitting on a stone, and held a piece of cloth in their hand to separate the penitent from the crowd, when one had finished, his place was occupied by another. I have been told that the priest receives something for his trouble, and that the price is fixed: this is their chief revenue. They have nothing to live on but the scanty dues they receive from the people. I was surpris'd at seeing some who appeared comfortable, who had between one or two hundred a year, besides a tolerable house and dinners innumerable, which they were authorized to get from their parishioners.

The law allows every catholic priest who recants, forty pounds a year, to be paid by
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the county in which he resides, and the first curacy that falls vacant. The insults which those who profit of this advantage meet with from the people, deter those whose less rigid principles might induce them to attend to their worldly interest: the law, however, is in their favour, and yet I do not think there are a dozen in all Ireland.

I went to visit the sacred fountain near this abbey: it is not situated like others in the fields but is surrounded with houses: although I was told what was done there before I went, I could not help laughing at seeing a score of women with their petticoats tucked up, and marching one after another on their bare knees. A person must think of the Virgin Mary to avoid getting into a fit of laughter at the grimaces they make when their knees are pierced by the round hard pebbles, and at their curious method of tucking up their petticoats ah! ah! Mr. Twiss, what a fine opportunity this would have been for you! what profound and witty remarks you would have made on their legs but I shall be more discreet than you, Mr. Twiss,

Twiss, I will not tell the publick what the Virgin Mary permitted me to see on that occasion.

At some distance stood an honest soul, who perceiving me to be a stranger, came up to me; I asked him what the water of this fountain was good for? “Ah! sir,” said he, “it is good for every thing; it enables the blind to walk, the lame to speak and the deaf to see. If you have any complaints you need only go round it seven times on your bare knees.”

I had no occasion to make the experiment to know the effect of it, for when these poor people went to wash themselves in the fountain, after doing penance, I saw their knees scratched and bloody. Possibly, however, the dread of this severe penance may prevent errors or crimes; if this be the case, I think it better guard against them even by folly, than be afterwards obliged to have recourse to justice to punish them.

